

### Deposed emir seeks Kuwait's support

KUWAIT (R) — Qatar's deposed emir arrived in Kuwait on Saturday on an Arab Gulf tour intended to rally support for his return to power. Officials said Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah received Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani who was ousted by his son Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani in a bloodless coup in June. The former emir has said his tour of Arab Gulf states was aimed at rallying support for his return to power in Qatar, which controls the world's single largest gas field and the world's third largest proven gas reserves. The official Kuwait news agency earlier called the visit a "brotherly" one. Sheikh Khalifa is also expected to visit Saudi Arabia and Oman, diplomats said. He has already been to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Differences between Qatar and the other five Arab Gulf allies rose to the surface on Dec. 6 when the current emir refused to attend the closing session of the annual Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit. Qatar, which is scheduled to host next year's GCC summit, is opposed to the method used in appointing a new GCC secretary general when Doha's candidate was dropped in favour of a Saudi national.

### Haiti thanks Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Haitian Prime Minister Smark Mensebel expressed his deep thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein and the government of Jordan for the effective contribution of Jordanian Armed Forces within the U.N. multinational forces and the U.N. mission in Haiti. In a message sent to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Bakr, the Haitian prime minister stressed the fact that Jordan's response to international humanitarian efforts was unmatched at a crucial stage of Haiti's history. This response was clearly manifested in sending Jordanian security forces to help restore democracy in Haiti, the prime minister said.

### Egypt sacks railways head

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak sacked the head of Egypt's railway authority Saturday after 77 people were killed in two accidents in nine days which both involved trains ramming into the back of each other. Mr. Mubarak ordered in a presidential decree that Abdul Salam Shaath be relieved of his post immediately following the worst accident in the Egyptian railways for more than 15 years. Newspapers reported Saturday that two people were killed and eight injured when a northbound train from the southern Moya province rammed into the back of another that was heading for the capital. The driver of the Moya train and a passenger were killed in the collision. Officials at the scene blamed thick fog for the crash, the government newspaper Al-Ahram Al Yom said. Last Thursday, 75 people were killed and 76 injured when a crowded workers' train rammed a passenger train from behind in thick fog in the town of Badrasheen. The train drivers blamed stalled control systems and faulty signals for the collision that highlighted the poor safety record of level-crossing systems.

### EU to set up Cyprus initiative

ROME (AFP) — Italy is to launch a peace mission for the divided Mediterranean island of Cyprus shortly after it takes over the rotating European Union presidency next week. Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli said Friday. She said a top foreign ministry official, Emanuele Scamacco, would visit Cyprus, Greece and Turkey from Jan. 4 to 6, to see how the EU could help with the peace process. Cyprus is divided into a Greek Cypriot region, whose government is recognised by the United Nations and the world community, and a northern Turkish Cypriot region, where the administration is recognised only by Turkey. Talks have been going on at the U.N. for several years on trying to resolve the dispute. Italy will be taking over the six-month presidency from Spain on Jan. 1.

### UNHCR begins probe in Sudan

GENEVA (AFP) — The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has launched an inquiry into claims by Ethiopia that refugees in Sudan had been arrested, tortured and murdered, a spokeswoman said on Saturday. "We are taking these allegations very seriously," UNHCR spokeswoman Ruth Marshall said. A letter from the Ethiopian government to the UNHCR, made public Thursday, gave a detailed account of how Ethiopian refugees in Sudan were the victims of "harassment and continuous persecution," she said. Ethiopia said two refugees had been killed, one tortured and 220 arrested, including 53 whose whereabouts were not known and 35 who were expelled back to Ethiopia. Ms. Marshall said the UNHCR was checking out each case cited.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

## King expresses hope East Jerusalem will be capital of Palestine

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said that Jordan believes Jerusalem should remain "a symbol for peace for all believers in God, and sovereignty over the city should not belong to any single state."

In an interview with the London-based Al Wasat magazine, the King said that Arab Jerusalem has been an occupied city since 1967, "expressing hope that it will become the capital of Palestine as the western part of the city is the capital of Israel, something which has not been recognised until now."

In reply to a question about apprehension over the democratic experiment in Jordan, the King said: "Yes, I have some apprehension over the democratic experiment because I have lived through this experiment in the 1950s. Naturally, we were shocked and met with a setback at the time with regard to democracy and with regard to all what we had hoped to achieve for Jordan to become an example for others. For this reason, I am apprehensive about the possibility of some people using democracy as a weapon against democracy in this country. I hope that all citizens will rise to a high degree of awareness to prevent this from happening and about these people's designs and I hope we all will reach a stage where we can act responsibly and participate in the decision-making process and in the shaping of the future."

Asked about the U.S.

administration's response to Jordan's military requirements, the King said the response has been encouraging: "We are hoping to achieve good results from a visit by the U.S. defence secretary to Jordan on Jan. 3-5."

Asked about Jordanian-Saudi relations, the King said that these relations were very good and on the way to returning to their required level of brotherly ties.

"I hope the circumstances will allow my brother King Fahd and myself to meet soon, and I am confident that the meeting will open the way for the return of bilateral relations to their best."

Asked about relations with Kuwait he said: "We do not attach any conditions to resuming these relations. We have taken all the initiatives hoping that the relations will return to normal. But we cannot offer any more in this respect. I believe it is a matter of time when our Kuwaiti brothers choose to cooperate and establish solid relations based on sound foundations, we will welcome their move. We have nothing else to say."

Replying to a question about the Syrian-Israeli peace negotiations, the King expressed hope that the two sides will achieve progress so that a comprehensive peace in the region could be established.

On a future Jordanian-Palestinian confederation the King said that there would not be any talk about such confederation at this stage before the Palestinians attain

their full rights on their national soil in a manner acceptable to them.

"Then and in an atmosphere of freedom and brotherly dialogue and on a background of strong relations the people can determine their position regarding the future and the nature of relations."

"We will continue to help the Palestinian brothers with our full power and potential and under all circumstances until they arrive at their aspired objectives," the King said.

Asked about Israeli passports issued to Arab residents of Jerusalem and whether Jordan will be ready to issue permanent passports to the Palestinians, the King said: "If it is a matter of passports the question should be discussed with the Palestinian brothers. But I believe that the Jerusalem question is one that has been placed on the agenda of the final stage of the negotiations which starts after the Israeli elections and the settlement of the Jerusalem issue within the framework of the agreed programme."

On Iraq, the King said: "Iraq is very important to us and we consider the suffering of the Iraqi people as our own. We are deeply affected with what has been going on. We believe that Iraq is at the threshold of a very difficult stage. Either the country and its unity are saved through the meeting of all Iraqi factions at the national level or the country will be facing further disasters and further

prospects of dismemberment and disintegration, with all the danger that these developments might entail."

"Iraq's unity is our constant concern and ways to save Iraq from the suffering both in terms of the deprivation of its people of democracy, and respect of human rights or the embargo, is our duty and our service to the Iraqi people which we ought to perform with all our potential. This is our task now since we have failed over the past two years to establish a constructive dialogue with the Iraqi regime with the aim of saving Iraq from its present plight," the King said.

The King added: "The subject of federation is not a subject upon which lights should be focused. Our call to the Iraqis is to ask them to enter into a dialogue amongst themselves to tackle their national problems and reassurance their future and to remove fear from their minds about a bloodbath about which they had been talking. As to the future of Iraq, the Iraqis could find reassurance through a dialogue among the representatives of various groups and factions to shape their future through an acceptable formula."

The King made it clear that a federation could be considered as one way that could bring about the required change among the Iraqis themselves following the tragedies that they lived through. It is a mere proposal and one of many that could

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## Violence in S. Lebanon dampens positive spirit of Syria-Israel negotiations in U.S.

### Tel Aviv demands Damascus halt attacks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel on Saturday demanded that Syria rein in Hizbollah guerrillas after they rocketed northern Israel and wounded two soldiers in an ambush.

The flare-up in violence came after Israel and Syria both gave positive assessments of peace talks in Washington, which ended on Friday but were to continue informally over the coming days.

The Iranian-backed Hizbollah fired two salvos of Katyusha rockets into northern Israel on Friday night in retaliation for Israeli shelling of South Lebanon, which left one man dead and four members of his family wounded.

An Israeli army spokesman said the first wave caused no damage while the second hit several homes in the northern Galilee region, without causing casualties.

Residents of northern Israel spent the night in shelters but were allowed to come out on Saturday morning.

Pro-Israel security sources in South Lebanon said another attack was launched Saturday. No group claimed immediate responsibility for the attack.

In Jerusalem, Israeli security sources said no rockets had fallen in Israel since early Saturday morning and there were no reports of a fresh Katyusha attack.

Israel pinned blame for the attacks on Syria, which it accuses of controlling Hizbollah.

Israeli radio said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher telephoned Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa on Saturday over the rocketing.

"This attack comes at the worst possible time," it quoted Mr. Christopher as saying. He asked that Syria make maximum efforts to control the situation and Mr. Sharaa replied that Syria was against a military escalation, the radio said.

Earlier, a statement from Prime Minister Shimon Peres' office said: "Israel views these attacks seriously

and will act in consequence to defend the security of its border communities."

It said Mr. Peres had called on the United States to transmit a message to Syria to stop the Hizbollah actions.

Hizbollah fighters later also hit an army jeep with a missile near Barasheet on the edge of the occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon, wounding two soldiers, the army said.

The Islamic Resistance, Hizbollah's armed wing, claimed it had destroyed a Centurion tank in an "ambush set by our fighters."

Israeli artillery fired more than 70 shells in retaliation

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## Yemen hails return of prisoners, but wants Eritrean withdrawal from island

SANAA (AFP) — More than 200 Yemeni prisoners captured during Eritrea's seizure of Hanish Al Kabir on Dec. 18. Nine soldiers died in the three-day battle over the strategic Red Sea island which both countries claim.

The release of the prisoners is a positive step, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani told reporters. "Yemen's position is clear. Eritrea must pull out its military forces occupying the island."

Yemen had earlier accused Eritrea of dragging its feet over the releases, but the official Eritrea Profile weekly rejected the charge on Saturday.

"The government of Eritrea, true to its promise, released the Yemeni soldiers and continues to strive to resolve the problem in a

peaceful manner," the weekly said.

"The Yemenis continue to issue inflammatory statements, preconditions, threats and resort to intimidation."

The prisoners were taken from an army barracks on the edge of Asmara early Saturday and transferred to the waiting aircraft. Smiling and looking relaxed, they waved to local people from their buses.

An Eritrean government official said the release was a "gesture of goodwill."

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali met Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh here Saturday as part of intensive international mediation efforts.

Dr. Ghali, quoted by Yemen's official news agency, SABA, said the United Nations was prepared to offer its good offices if Sanaa and

Asmara both agreed. He was due in Asmara on Sunday.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, whose country is already mediating, said Friday that Yemen and Eritrea had agreed in principle to demilitarise the disputed islands, which guard access to strategic Red Sea shipping lanes.

Mr. Meles was speaking after separate meetings with the Eritrean and Yemeni presidents.

Eritrea has called for a joint pullback from all 200 islands in the archipelago followed by international arbitration to resolve the dispute.

But Mr. Iryani said Saturday: "We hope the conflict is resolved on a regional basis, because international arbitration will complicate it further."

### Algerian president to name new premier soon

PARIS (R) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual is expected to appoint a new prime minister this week to replace Modad Sifi, the Algerian government-controlled newspaper El Moudjahid said. Mr. Sifi, in office since April 1994, tendered his resignation after Mr. Zeroual's election victory in November but the president asked him to stay in office until the end of the year. El Moudjahid gave no details of the make-up of the next government or who would become Algeria's sixth prime minister in less than six years. Independent newspapers reported this week that Mr. Zeroual had picked his office head, Ahmed Ouyahia, to replace Mr. Sifi. The newspapers speculated that the government line-up would include ministers drawn from three opposition parties — the moderate Islamist movement Hamas, the anti-fundamentalist Culture and Democracy Rally and the small Algerian Renewal Party. Leaders of the three parties took part in the presidential poll on Nov. 16 which was won by Mr. Zeroual with more than 61 per cent of the vote amid a large turnout despite threats by Muslim guerrillas to kill voters.



PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat Saturday leans forward to wave to the tens of thousands of supporters gathered below as he speaks from the roof of the former

Israeli military compound, now the headquarters of Mr. Arafat's Palestinian police and security forces (Reuters photo)

## Arafat enters Ramallah

RAMALLAH (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat declared the West Bank town of Ramallah "free forever" as he paid a triumphant first visit on Saturday following the end of 28 years of Israeli occupation.

Israel banded over control of Ramallah, considered the West Bank's economic capital, to Mr. Arafat's self-rule authority on Wednesday under a deal spreading autonomy across the West Bank.

Standing on the roof of the new Palestinian police headquarters, he told tens of thousands of cheering supporters: "Before you, I declare the town of Ramallah free forever."

He earlier swept into Ramallah on board a helicopter which landed in the courtyard of the police building, which had served as the Israeli military administration offices.

"Today we are writing the history of Palestine, of a free Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital," he said.

He also paid tribute to some 5,000 Palestinians still held in Israeli jails. "The day of your freedom is near," he said.

Mr. Arafat was interrupted several times by the crowd who chanted "we are ready to sacrifice our lives and blood for you Abu Ammar," his nom de guerre.

The town was bedecked with Palestinian flags and portraits of the veteran PLO leader, who was cheered and applauded by wellwishers from Ramallah and surrounding villages.

The police headquarters were draped with welcoming banners, and hundreds of onlookers crowded rooftops and balconies to catch a glimpse of Mr. Arafat.

Scouts beat drums and riders on horseback joined the festivities in Ramallah, the seventh West Bank town banded over to Palestinian control under the self-rule accords that also launched autonomy in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Arafat also called for a massive turnout in self-rule elections set for Jan. 20, particularly by inhabitants of annexed East Jerusalem in order to "reinforce the Arab character of the town."

Israel conquered the Arab eastern sector in the 1967 war and so far 45,000 of the city's eligible 70,000 Palestinian vo-

ters have registered. Some fear that they will lose social benefits and freedom of travel given by the Israeli authorities if they participate.

"You must support the best candidates, and if you want to criticise them don't hesitate to do so," said Mr. Arafat, who is expected to easily defeat his only challenger for president of the new executive council.

Later, Mr. Arafat chaired a cabinet meeting in the city. The meeting grouped only five ministers following the resignation of 11 others who plan to stand in Palestinian general elections next month.

Meanwhile, the launch of the campaign for the elections has been delayed for a week until Jan. 7, a member of the electoral commission said Saturday.

Ussama Abu Safia also said that registration of candidates for the polls, originally due to close on Dec. 24, was being extended until midnight on Sunday.

The election campaign was due to start on Saturday. Its postponement, cutting

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## ARAB BANK

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## Rocket attacks kill 8 in Kabul

KABUL (AFP) — Eight Afghan civilians were killed and 41 injured when a deadly wave of rocket and shell salvos struck the besieged capital Kabul, witnesses and doctors said Saturday.

Four separate barrages of artillery shells and rockets fired by the Taliban militia blockading Kabul hit three areas of the city between late Thursday and late Friday, defence officials and witnesses said.

The latest series of barrages came as a Taliban spokesman in Pakistan roundly rejected an unconditional offer by Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani that he travel to opposition strongholds — including the Taliban centre at Kandahar — for talks on resolving the country's protracted civil war.

A heavy artillery attack late Thursday killed two children, two women and a man in a city street instantly, while three other victims of the assault died later in hospital, they added.

A further 23 people were

wounded in that attack, while another 18 were injured in three other attacks late Friday, doctors at Kabul's hospitals told AFP.

Two of the salvos — one of artillery shells and one BM 21 rockets — struck a densely populated high-rise residential zone in the east of the war-battered capital Friday, injuring eight residents.

"It is miraculous that more people were not hurt or killed," said Rafiq Homar, whose fourth-floor flat was peppered with artillery shrapnel and had its windows blown out.

"We were in bed when there was an almighty explosion very close by. Then a huge fragment of shell hit the wall just a few feet above my head, leaving a deep crater."

"Some people's homes were completely shattered by the blasts, while hundreds of residents lost their windows, which is very difficult to deal with in the middle of a cold winter," he said.

One of the eight shells and rockets plummeted through the roof of a room in a

top-floor flat, but the owners of the apartment escaped unscathed, neighbours said.

The attacks, over a period of 24 hours, marked the fiercest and deadliest series of barrages of Kabul over recent weeks, and came after the Kabul administration appeared to extend an olive branch to other warring factions.

The defence ministry here accused the Taliban of launching the attacks from their bases south of Kabul and expressed shock at the barrages.

"We are surprised that after we offered them the opportunity of talks that they have again fired rockets randomly and deliberately on the city," a defence source said.

In an unprecedented show of apparent flexibility, Mr. Rabbani on Wednesday agreed to travel to provincial opposition bases to discuss the formation of a broad-based government for war-torn Afghanistan.

The offer includes possible talks with all factional lead-

ers, including the Taliban, Uzbek warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum and with ex-premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, top officials here said.

It was the first time the president, or any member of his beleaguered government, had proposed such talks outside of Kabul, and came amid growing speculation that top administration figures are already talking to leaders of other groups, including Mr. Dostum and Mr. Hekmatyar's parties.

However the Taliban, who regard the Kabul government as illegitimate, have dismissed Mr. Rabbani's offer as a manoeuvre to gain time for military preparations at a time when his administration is under pressure.

More than 60 civilians have been killed in rocket and shell attacks on Kabul during December, while hundreds of others have been injured.

The government has routinely blamed the attacks on the Taliban, who are besieging the city on three sides and threatening to seize it and topple Mr. Rabbani.



ISRAELI SOLDIER HOLDING KATYUSHA FRAGMENT: Israeli soldier holding a Katyusha fragment in a home demolished by the rocket early Saturday. Hizbollah guerrillas in Lebanon fired Katyusha rockets at Israel causing damage but no casualties. See Page 1 story (Reuters photo)

## First Afghan film since fall of communism released

KABUL (R) — An Afghan film company released on Saturday the first feature-length movie completed entirely in Afghanistan since the fall of the communist government early in 1994.

The director of the production company, Sidiq Barmaque, said problems caused by the civil war meant it took two and a half years to make the movie, called "Urui" (Ascension).

"We finished filming in just three months in the summer of 1993," he said. "But a lack of electricity, equipment that kept breaking down and a shortage of funds meant we couldn't get the post-production work done until now."

"When we tried to buy spare parts for some of our gear from the United States the suppliers wanted to buy the equipment as museum pieces," he added.

The two and a half hour epic traces the transformation of a humble village baker into a Mujahideen fighter battling Soviet forces occupying Afghanistan during the 1980s.

The company, Afghan Films, had to shoot the film in the north-central province of Parwan because it was the only area it had access to that was free of fighting between rival Mujahideen factions.

Those factions are still battling one another for control of the country.

In a tragic twist to the film's production, two of the stars were killed this year when a rocket exploded on the studios during the battle for Kabul between pro-government forces and the Taliban Islamic militia.

All the actors in the movie were Afghans and all but one were amateurs, although Mr.

Barmaque said those who played Russians were too embarrassed to attend the premiere.

"They did a wonderful job. But I think they feel they played such convincing roles that they were ashamed to come and admit it was really them," he said.

Producer Noor Hashem Abir said the movie cost \$5 million and was funded by the government and private investors.

"They all wanted to help re-establish the important role of theatre in this country before it was suppressed and controlled by the old regime," Mr. Abir said.

"We hope that by making this film and the two others we are planning, we will be able to re-equip ourselves and re-train people to get the Afghan film industry moving again," he added.

## Family of Jihad leader barred from leaving Gaza Strip

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Israeli authorities have barred the family of Islamic Jihad leader Ramadan Abdallah Shallah from leaving the Gaza Strip to join him in Beirut, the Palestinian militant group said Saturday.

Maba Abdul Karim Nasser and her three children tried to leave self-ruled Gaza at the Rafah crossing with Egypt on Friday, the group said from Damascus. But they were stopped by Israeli authorities who control the borders.

In Gaza City, friends of the family said the wife arrived for a visit after Mr. Shallah was named to head Islamic Jihad in late October. She

came from the United States while her husband travelled directly to Beirut.

The children are naturalised Americans, Islamic Jihad said.

Mr. Shallah succeeded Fathi Shaqaqi after his assassination Oct. 26 by a suspected Israeli hit squad in Malta. Mr. Shaqaqi was based in the Syrian capital while the new chief has his headquarters in Damascus.

The new leader of Islamic Jihad, which has mounted anti-Israeli attacks aimed at sabotaging the autonomy deals, left Gaza in 1984 to study in Egypt, Britain and the United States before settling in Lebanon.

## Palestinian media favours Fatah party in elections

JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinian radio and television overwhelmingly favour candidates from Yasser Arafat's Fatah party in the campaign to elect the first self-rule government Jan. 20, a media watchdog group said Saturday.

"A very sizeable imbalance exists between the different candidates and parties' access to Palestinian public radio and television," according to a Dec. 15-25 survey completed by Reporters Without Borders.

The Palestinian election campaign officially started Dec. 30 and runs through Jan. 18 to elect an 87-member autonomy council and a president to the executive council.

Fatah, the main faction of Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), is the only party to have had real access to television, with one hour, 11 minutes, 35 seconds of air time during the survey period.

The Palestinian People's Party, a communist group, is the only other political faction to have appeared on television and it received only 17 seconds of air time, the report said.

As for overall programming, Fatah received five times more air time than the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which opposes the PLO peace deal with Israel.

However, Arab programming on Israeli public radio and television "provides equal access to different political groups: 4 mins, 10 secs to Fatah, 2 mins, 9 secs to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is opposed to the autonomy accords, and 1 min, 2 secs for Hamas," the study said.

Mr. Arafat, a candidate for president of the executive council, had more than an hour on Palestinian radio and television, while his sole rival, Samiha Khalil, a left-wing community activist, received

no time. Reporters Without Borders said. Palestinian radio and television stations are currently operated by Mr. Arafat's Palestinian National Authority (PNA) which will be replaced by the new self-rule government.

The written press, however, had a "much more diversified image," with 20 groups or parties having access, the study said.

Reporters Without Borders, an independent organisation devoted to freedom of the press, has been monitoring the Palestinian media and press for the upcoming elections. Fifteen observers are participating in the project, financed by the European Union.

The historic first elections are being held as part of the PLO-Israeli accord to establish Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and in towns on the West Bank. About 700 candidates have registered to run for the 87-member autonomy council.

## Egyptian government bans female circumcision in hospitals — again

CAIRO (AP) — The government has forbidden state hospitals to perform female circumcisions, just months after authorising them to do so in an attempt to curb botched operations by clumsy amateurs.

State hospitals were quietly told two months ago to stop performing the procedure, but the decision was never publicly announced. A ministry of health official who confirmed the ban attributed the reversal to pressure from women's and human rights groups and fear of U.S. aid sanctions.

Female circumcision, widespread in Egypt and other parts of Africa, is condemned by critics as genital mutilation. The procedure ranges from clipping the tip of a young girl's clitoris to cutting away even the outer sex organs.

Women's and human rights groups were outraged 14 months ago when the government decided to lift a 1959 ban on performing the procedure in state hospitals,

arguing that implied state sanction of genital mutilation.

Hassan Al Kallah, under-secretary of health, said another reason the ban was reintroduced was the fear that U.S. aid for Egyptian health projects could be cut off over the controversy.

But the government says opponents of hospital circumcisions ignore a crucial fact: Unlicensed practitioners do the operation anyway and often bungle it.

Since many doctors refuse to perform the procedure, families take their daughters to midwives or so-called surgical barbers who use anything from dull, dirty razor blades to knives, and often work without anaesthetic.

The result — besides the searing pain of the operation — can be weeks of bleeding, infections, and sometimes death. Women can suffer long-term health problems and have difficulty bearing children.

An estimated 70 per cent to 90 per cent of Egyptian

girls are circumcised just before puberty.

The U.S.-based Cable News Network (CNN) stirred up controversy over female circumcision in September 1994, when it aired footage of an amateur cutting away the clitoris of a screaming 10-year-old girl in Cairo.

Thousands of foreign health experts were in the city then for the U.N. population conference, and Egyptian officials quickly promised to outlaw the operation.

They later backpedalled, arguing a ban would not stop so widespread a practice. Instead, in October 1994, the health ministry decreed that government hospitals must set aside one day a week for the operation.

Al Kallah maintained that the decree's opponents failed to realise that in its efforts to halt the practice, the government is up against a deeply rooted tradition.

"People misunderstood us. They thought we were supporting the operation, which

is not true," Mr. Al Kallah said. "We are against it, but we could not change the traditions of the society overnight. We were being attacked by people who did not understand Egyptian culture."

Many Egyptians follow the tradition blindly or think the operation curbs a girl's sexual appetite. Others believe it is ordained by Islam, although Muslim scholars are at odds over this. Some Egyptian Christians follow the practice, too.

When the government overturned the 1959 ban, Health Minister Ali Abdul Fattah argued that allowing circumcision in hospitals would make it safe. He said hospitals would also counsel parents against the practice, warning of its futility and danger.

Eventually, he maintained, the decree and the warnings could eradicate the practice.

But Nehad Lotfy, a lawyer with the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights, said that based on comments from

people she has counselled against circumcision, she believed the Egyptian public saw the decree as approving the operation.

"They would say, 'The minister said it is all right. What do you know that the minister doesn't?'" Ms. Lotfy explained.

Mr. Al Kallah said the worst pressure to reverse the decree came from abroad. He cited attacks on Egypt's delegation at September's U.N. Women's Conference in Beijing. Mr. Abdul Fattah also said he was plagued by questions from U.S. officials during a Washington visit.

A New York-based group called Equality Now sent letters urging women's groups worldwide to protest the decree. The idea of using U.S. aid as a weapon against the ruling was raised in Congress.

The U.S. Agency for International Development, which administers the \$2 billion annual aid to Egypt, has long opposed any step that would make circumcision medically acceptable.

## Turkish forces kill 10 rebels

TUNCALI, Turkey (R) — Turkish security forces killed 10 rebel Kurdish guerrillas and wounded one on Saturday for the loss of three of their own six wounded in one of the biggest clashes in the east recently, officials said.

They said security forces, backed by Sikorsky assault helicopters and fighter planes, killed 10 members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in a three-day-long operation in Divrigi and Kangal districts of Sivas province against rebels.

Two members of a crack police team and a soldier were also killed and six other soldiers wounded in the battle.

The officials said the wide-ranging operation was aimed at 150 members of the PKK who had recently fled to Sivas province from the neighbouring Tunceli to escape from the army's year-old crackdown on rebels.

## British defence secretary in UAE

DUBAI (AFP) — British Defence Secretary Michael Portillo arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Saturday as London pursued negotiations on a military pact that could help it to promote arms sales to the Gulf nation.

Mr. Portillo, making his first trip here since his appointment in July, met UAE Defence Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktum in Dubai, the British embassy said.

He was due to hold talks Sunday with Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan and Army Chief-of-Staff Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahayan.

"It's part of a regular dialogue. We have a close relationship with the Emirates and this is one way of maintaining it," British embassy spokeswoman Heidi Minshall told AFP.

Western diplomats said Mr. Portillo was apparently seeking to push for the con-

clusion of a defence agreement which Britain and the UAE have been negotiating for more than a year.

Asked about this possibility, Ms. Minshall said: "I am sure it will come up during the talks, but it is not the primary goal of the visit."

British officials said last month the agreement could be signed within weeks but they did not give details of its terms.

Military sources said a defence pact would support Britain's attempts to sell weapons to the UAE, which is involved in bolstering its army.

Britain lost out to France in a \$235 million anti-submarine helicopter deal struck with the UAE early this year. But it hopes to win a contract to sell frigates to the Emirates at a cost of more than one billion dollars.

The UAE is already tied to a defence pact with France, its main weapon supplier and trading partner.

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14:00 Shelby Duvall's Bedtime Stories  
14:30 Feature film: "The Dream Team"  
14:50 The Adventures of the Black Stallion  
16:30 Sky Trackers  
17:00 Children's Programme: "C'est Pas Sorcier"  
17:30 Fruits Et Légumes  
18:00 Doc: "L'Intégrale"  
18:30 News in French  
19:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique  
19:30 News Headlines  
19:35 Boogies Diner  
20:25 The Best of the Beautiful  
21:10 The American Chart Show  
22:00 News in English  
22:25 Feature film: A Different Affair  
22:59 Christmas mass from the Vatican — live

**PRAYER TIMES**  
05:05 Fajr  
05:28 (Sunrise) Duha  
11:25 Dhuhr  
14:19 Asr  
16:41 Maghreb

**CHURCHES**  
St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swedish Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Roman Catholic Church Tel. 623666  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541  
Anglican Church Tel. 628266  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 627331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 625266  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 645457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

**WEATHER**  
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be sunny in the morning

**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR**

and cold at night. Scattered rains are expected in the northern parts of the Kingdom. Temperatures will be around their annual average. Winds will be northwesterly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 5 / 15  
Aqaba ..... 8 / 22  
Deserts ..... 4 / 16  
Jordan Valley ..... 9 / 23

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 14, Aqaba 22 Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**  
**NIGHT DUTY**  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Osama Al Hussaini ..... 847289  
Dr. Bilal Al Sayid ..... 890280  
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub ..... 779797  
Dr. Hasham Kant'an ..... 790286  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows Pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairookh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730

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Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairookh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shamsi pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nairookh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IBRD:  
Dr. Ahmad Qanu ..... 281741  
Alquds pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Randa Shatini ..... 995710  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 985417

**EMERGENCIES**  
Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 627101  
Fire Brigade ..... 627101  
Blood Bank ..... 627101  
Highway Police ..... 775121  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 661176  
Hotel Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 661176  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121

Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdell Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

Electric Power ..... 636381  
Compens ..... 083320  
RJ Flight Information ..... 083320  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 083320

**HOSPITALS**  
AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642816/6  
Aklieh Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642412/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsani ..... 607071  
Shamsani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 667277  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muasher ..... 777101/2  
Al-Sheikh, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775112/6  
Army, Marja ..... 891617/5  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 607155

ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)909090  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

IBRD:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272775  
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital ..... (02)247100  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 851599

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**  
**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
**ARRIVALS**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ)  
Flights (Terminal 1)  
05:30 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
08:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
08:35 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
08:55 ..... Doha (RJ)  
09:25 ..... Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)  
09:55 ..... Dubai, Doha (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

05:30 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
08:50 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
11:10 ..... Munich (RJ)  
11:25 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Athens (RJ)  
16:00 ..... Jeddah (add)  
20:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
20:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)

**DEPARTURES**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ)  
Flights (Terminal 1)  
05:30 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
08:50 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
11:10 ..... Munich (RJ)  
11:25 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Athens (RJ)  
16:00 ..... Jeddah (add)  
20:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
20:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)

16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:00 ..... Brussels, Paris (RJ)  
17:45 ..... London (RJ)  
18:00 ..... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
18:25 ..... Athens (RJ)  
18:45 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
19:35 ..... Rome (RJ)  
19:55 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
22:15 ..... Munich, Rome (RJ)  
22:45 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
00:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
03:50 ..... Sanaa (add) (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**  
07:45 ..... Rome (AZ)  
07:50 ..... Beirut (MS)  
11:30 ..... Sanaa (YV)  
12:30 ..... Doha (QR)  
15:00 ..... Doha (QR)  
16:05 ..... Moscow (SU)  
21:10 ..... Cairo (MS)  
02:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**  
08:30 ..... Sanaa (YV)  
12:40 ..... Bahrain (GF)  
14:00 ..... Doha (QR)  
14:30 ..... Moscow (SU)  
20:10 ..... Beirut (ME)  
20:20 ..... Cairo (MS)  
23:10 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
23:59 ..... London, Beirut (BA)  
01:20 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

**MARKET PRICES**  
Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.  
Apples ..... 700-800  
Bananas ..... 600  
Bananas (imported) ..... 500  
Cabbage ..... 100/150  
Carrot ..... 200/250  
Cauliflower ..... 100/150  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 200-250  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 200/250  
Eggplant ..... 700/800  
Garlic ..... 200/250  
Grape Fruit ..... 220/250  
Lemon ..... 250/300  
Marrow (large) ..... 100-150  
Marrow (small) ..... 200/250  
Onion (green) ..... 200/250  
Onion (dry) ..... 200/250

## Court of Cassation upholds Criminal Court rulings to execute three convicts

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Court of Cassation Saturday upheld a ruling by the Criminal Court to execute three men in three separate cases, according to the attorney general at the Criminal Court Ghazi Azar.

In the first case, Othman Abu Lawi, 45, was sentenced to death for raping his niece in May.

According to court papers, the 13-year-old's parents left their daughter with their uncle "to take care of her while they left to the West Bank."

The documents added that during that period the convict raped the girl twice. The child, who was not identified, became pregnant and in the seventh month her family discovered her pregnancy and informed the police.

The second convict Daoud Asmar, 25, was also sentenced to death for sodomising, then killing a

15-year-old boy in a farm in Sahab in May of 1995.

According to court documents, the convict lured the victim, who was not identified, to his father's farm promising him a reward of JD 30.

The documents added that Daoud forcefully sodomised the boy and then threatened him.

In his testimony to police, Daoud said he killed the youth by strangulation to conceal the crime.

He said he took the body and dumped it in the bushes near the farm. The victim's body was discovered days later by a farmer.

The court relied on witnesses who last saw the victim with Daoud, as well as the convict's own confession after he was apprehended by the authorities.

The third case involved a 28-year-old man who was sentenced to death after being convicted of murdering a youth in Baqa'a on Oct. 29, 1994.

According to court documents,

Abdul Karim Da'jeh lured a 17-year-old youth to an empty pool in Al Talhieh Camp in a Baqa'a farm and tried to sodomise him.

In his confession to police, Abdul Karim said that he tried to rape the youth but after he failed he threw him to the ground and the youth fainted, the documents said.

Abdul Karim then used a knife to stab him in the chest and slit his male organ, the document added. The convict buried the murder victim near the pool and then fled.

He was apprehended by authorities two months after the murder was committed, the document said, adding that Abdul Karim confessed and re-nacted the crime.

According to Mr. Azar, the three cases will be referred to the chief attorney general, then the minister of justice, prime minister and finally the King for endorsement of the verdicts.

## Water pipeline project to supply tourist facilities, residences in Wadi Mousa area

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is implementing water and sewage projects in the Wadi Mousa area, which includes Petra, and the towns of Wadi Mousa and Taybet Zaman, as part of ongoing government endeavours to promote tourism in southern Jordan, according to Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat Saturday.

Speaking after signing a contract with ENEX Contracting Corporation for laying a 24.5-kilometre length pipeline in that region, the minister said the pipeline will reach hotels in the Wadi Mousa district, which, until now, have not been supplied with running water.

The minister acknowledged the need for the supply of water services in Wadi Mousa, an area which has been witnessing a tourism boom but added that tourist facilities there were set up speedily in the area without due consideration to water services.

According to Abdul Majid Afaneh, ENEX general manager, who signed the contract with the minis-

ter, the JD 1.75 million project entails laying pipelines to provide hotels with 150 cubic metres of water per hour.

The contracted company will lay the pipeline, which will draw water from two water wells in Ma'an, and will install two pumping stations along the line as well as build a reservoir to store water in the district, according to Mr. Afaneh.

With the contract providing for the completion of the entire project within one year, the company plans to embark on its work in early January 1996.

Speaking to journalists following the signing ceremony at his office, Dr. Irsheidat said the ministry plans to conduct a feasibility study for the installation of a sewage network and a main wastewater treatment plant also for the Wadi Mousa area.

The sewage project, estimated at \$10 million, will be financed through a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Dr. Irsheidat referred to the establishment of hotels planned along the east coast



Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat Saturday signs a contract with a local contracting corporation for the installation of a water pipeline to supply the Wadi Mousa region (Petra photo)

of the Dead Sea, and said the Ministry of Water and Irrigation will supply these hotels with the infrastructure of water in accordance to overall government plans for laying out roads, electricity and water networks in the region.

The minister denied there

were disputes between the government and investment companies over the construction of four hotels in the east coast of the Dead Sea.

He said the delay in laying out infrastructure was caused by investors' time-consuming study of the

contracts. Investors of Dead Sea projects have previously complained that the government was not providing sufficient incentives to investors by not providing the infrastructure required to implement tourism projects in the area.

## Man surrenders to police after killing two sisters

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — Two Zarqa women were shot and killed by their brother Friday morning in the latest crime of honour to be reported in the Kingdom this year, official sources said.

The women, identified as Kifaya A., 23 and her sister Nadia, 32, were shot and killed by their brother Mohammad A., 38, who first fled the scene, but surrendered to the authorities Saturday morning, according to a police official.

The man confessed to the double murder, the official told the Jordan Times. The official declined to release any details concerning the crime.

A 55-year-old man from the vegetable market in Al Sa'edh street, where the incident occurred, said he heard Kifaya (one of the victims) screaming from the first floor window of her house "my brother killed my sister and he wants to kill me."

He added that he saw Kifaya smash the glass of apartment window and jump out, falling through the awning of a shop below, to the ground.

"Kifaya fell on her head, tried to get up again, but fell back. Then her brother appeared at the window and started shooting at her," the man told the Jordan Times.

Another witness who also was present at the busy vegetable market, said she saw Kifaya's brother from the apartment window pointing his pistol towards his sister and shooting at her.

"The first three bullets missed Kifaya but the fourth and fifth struck her in the head, and that was the last thing I saw before I fainted," the 20-year-old woman, who preferred not to be identified, said.

According to the woman, Kifaya and Nadia had a good reputation in the neighbourhood, while their brother, Mohammad, held a criminal record.

"Nadia was married to a man without the knowledge of her brother, and when he learned about it, he killed both his sisters," the woman said.

Another neighbour told the Jordan Times that Mohammad "might have killed his sisters for inheritance reasons." "Mohammad did not want his sister to inherit money and property" the source said.

"Kifaya died instantly while her sister Nadia died on her way to Yajouz Hospital of gunshot wounds to the head and chest.

Neighbours said the mother of the victims was rushed to Zarqa Government Hospital following the incident suffering from a nervous breakdown.

Police refused to confirm any of the allegations and said they were questioning the brother.

Kifaya and Nadia became the 12th and 13th women reportedly killed in a "crime of honour" in the Kingdom this year.

Police search suspects in connection with killing

Meanwhile, police Saturday were searching for suspects in connection with the murder of an unidentified man, whose body was found Friday in a red suitcase that was left in the south bus terminal near Mamoura Hotel, according to official sources.

An official told the Jordan Times Saturday that the man, apparently in his late 20s, had his throat slit and had also received a blow to the head.

The official said luggage porters in the terminal became suspicious of the red suitcase because it was left alone and called the police.

"At this time, we are still trying to determine the identity of the dead man, and are searching for suspects," the official told the Jordan Times.

## Court dismisses witness in Abu Rishteh case

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Defence attorneys of Muslim militant Atta Abu Rishteh, accused of slandering His Majesty King Hussein in a newspaper interview in October, Saturday asked the court to dismiss a witness who was due to testify in the case.

Mr. Abu Rishteh, spokesman of the illegal Hezb Al Tahrir (Liberation party), is also charged with belonging to an illegal organisation. He could face up to three years' imprisonment if indicted.

Abdul Fatah Lafi, one of two attorneys defending Mr. Abu Rishteh, asked the court to dismiss the witness, Abia Dabab, who works with the legislative department at the Ministry of Information, because "she was not the witness we requested."

The defence had requested that an expert from the Press and Publications Department at the Ministry of Information testify in the case.

"This witness is not the one we wanted and she is an employee at the legislative department and her job is not related to censorship," Mr. Lafi told the tribunal.

Munjid Namarat, reporter of Al Hiwar newspaper who interviewed Mr. Abu Rishteh also failed to show up at court.

Presiding Judge Hafez Amin agreed to dismiss the witness and to call in a new witness. He set Jan. 4 to continue hearing the case.

Date set for Bay'at Al Imam case

The State Court also set Jan. 2 to start hearing the case of 13 people known as Bay'at Al Imam (pledge of allegiance) accused of sabotage after their trial was postponed indefinitely in October because some of the defendants refused to

appoint attorneys at the State Security Court.

The defendants, who were expelled twice from court for disrupting the session, charged that some of the attorneys were atheists, and that they did not believe in the court's justice system. They said they would defend themselves or God would decide their fate.

They are charged with slander against King Hussein and illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive materials.

The Jordan Bar Association (JBA) recently appointed seven attorneys to represent the defendants after the court asked the association to do so.

Court sets Jan. 3 to hear CID attack case

A new date, Jan. 3, was also set by the State Security Court to start hearing the case of six people accused of attacking the office of the Central Intelligence Department (CID) at Baqa'a refugee camp on Dec. 26, 1994.

On Dec. 26, five of the defendants allegedly went to Baqa'a camp and showered the CID building with bullets from a machine gun, injuring one person then fled the scene.

The sixth defendant was apprehended by the authorities three days before the incident occurred.

According to the State Prosecutor General's charge sheet, the defendants are charged with the assault and the intent to block the appropriate authorities (CID) from exercising its duties in accordance with the Constitution and the distribution of pamphlets slandering the King.

The charge sheet said that the suspects started their illegal activities in April of 1994 and plotted to carry extremist attacks on tourist and security departments in the Kingdom.

## Municipality to construct tunnel in accident-prone district

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Municipality Saturday started digging a 34-metre-long tunnel in an eastern Amman district where dangerous road-crossing and traffic conditions have led to the death or injury of several school children.

The road, under which the tunnel will be constructed, runs between a densely populated area and schools.

The construction of the tunnel and its eventual use will hopefully put an end to the carnage on the roads, Amman Mayor Mamdouh Ahbadi said.

The five-metre wide and

3.1 metre-high JD 64,000 tunnel, which will take two weeks to complete, will be constructed at the ring road which passes through the urban development region where two housing estates have been built for limited income groups, according to a municipality engineer at the site.

The mayor said numerous students have been killed or injured by speeding vehicles on that particular road in the past few years.

At least 2,030 students and residents of the district will use the tunnel on a daily basis, according to Dr. Ahbadi.

The mayor pointed out that the Amman area is in need of many other tunnels to be constructed at points considered dangerous to pedestrians.

According to the mayor, municipality teams in the next few days, will start digging another tunnel in front of the Specialty Hospital not far from the Sports Stadium in Amman.

The municipality has already constructed five tunnels in the Greater Amman area, two of them within the vicinity of the University of Jordan.

## 'TCC not responsible for telephone disruption'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) said Saturday denied it had anything to do with the failure in telephone contacts with Iraq through the Jordanian international circuit.

TCC Director General Walid Dweik told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the TCC can do little about the disruption, for over two weeks now, in telephone contacts between Iraq and Jordan.

The Associated Press agency earlier quoted Iraqi embassy officials in Amman as saying that the telecommunications department in Baghdad was carrying out repair works on the telephone system which was

damaged in the 1991 Gulf war and that this was causing the current disruption of telephone services.

But other sources said the Iraqi authorities have sharply reduced the availability of international telephone lines, apparently to prevent contacts with opposition groups in exile.

Mr. Dweik said the TCC regretted the service had been disrupted, adding that the corporation will make a public announcement when the telephone contacts with Iraq are restored.

## Arafat enters

(Continued from page 1)

the campaign down to less than two weeks, will "allow for new candidates to come forward and for possible appeals to the commission," Mr. Ahn Safia explained.

Mr. Arafat has raised the number of self-rule council seats to be contested from 87 to 88, adding an extra seat for Gaza City, the official told AFP.

More than a million

Palestinian voters and 670 candidates have signed up for the polls in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem.

Fifty-one representatives will be elected to the council in the West Bank and 37 in the Gaza Strip.

Voters will also elect the president of an executive council to be chosen by the larger body, with Mr. Arafat expected to easily defeat his only challenger, 72-year-old feminist Samiha Khalil, who

opposes the autonomy deals with Israel.

Ms. Khalil says that if elected, she will work to scrap the Israel-PLO peace agreement she dismisses as a sellout.

Ms. Khalil is aware her is an uphill battle and that Mr. Arafat will probably win. She says she is using the campaign mainly as a platform for her criticism of Mr. Arafat's Palestinian Authority and to make Israel see reason.

"I am entering the race to raise my voice," Ms. Khalil

told reporters this week. "I thought maybe Israel would come to its senses and... say enough of taking lands and gobbling them."

Ms. Khalil says her top priority, if elected, is to deal with issues she feels really matter to people, including winning the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners still held by Israel.

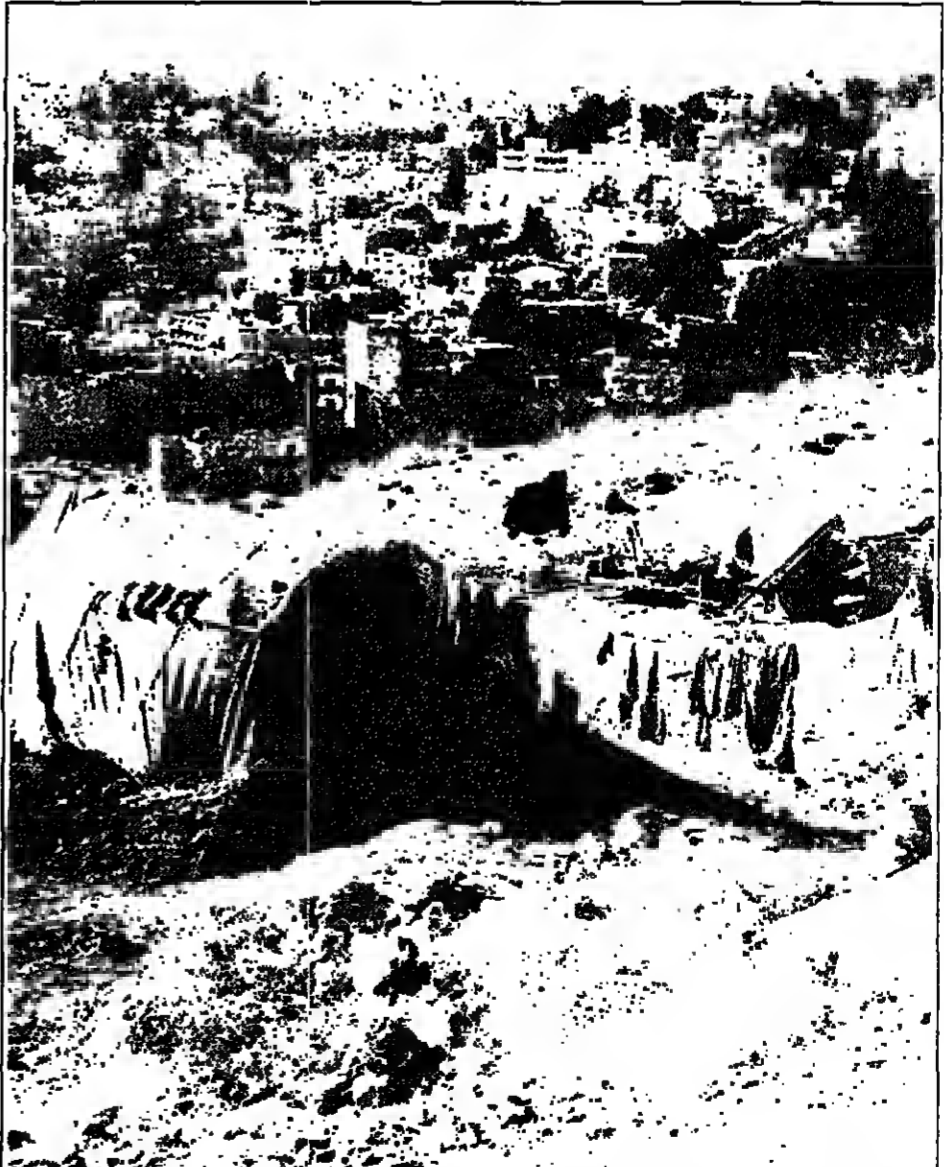
"I live among people with their emotions, their sufferings," she says.

Born in the village of Anahta in 1923, Ms. Khalil

cut short her studies when she married Salameh Khalil at the age of 17. After Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967, she became an activist in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a radical PLO faction.

Israel briefly detained her six times in the 1980s and placed her under town arrest in El Bireh for two-and-a-half years.

Ms. Khalil is a member of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile.



WINTERTIME WASHING: A family of tent dwellers takes advantage of Amman's sunny days to dry their washing over a picturesque view of the other world (Photo by Yousef Al' Allan)

# Strike-weary Bangladesh faces more disruption

DHAKA (AFP) — Thousands of strike-hardened commuters struggled to work in the Bangladesh capital Saturday as the opposition's last attempt in 1995 to topple Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government got under way.

As they did so, the military revealed they had detained at least 5,000 people they termed "terrorists and criminals" in a nationwide clampdown ahead of general elections scheduled for Feb. 7.

Defence sources said a total of 8,000 home-made bombs and explosives and 500 guns had been seized. Security was tightened throughout the country for Saturday's national blockade of road, rail and water-

ways aimed at forcing Ms. Zia to agree to put a neutral caretaker administration in place ahead of the elections.

There were no immediate reports of clashes. But a spokesman for the state-run Bangladesh Railway said three passengers were injured when an engine and three carriages were derailed on Tongi District, on the northern outskirts of Dhaka. "We suspect sabotage," said the spokesman.

Elsewhere train services were halted as "mobs obstructed tracks," rail officials said.

Pickets were also out to prevent buses and vehicles circulating in the capital.

Meanwhile a dissident member of Ms. Zia's ruling

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) urged the prime minister to accept opposition demands in the interests of preserving democracy.

Nurul Islam Moni said in a statement issued Saturday that the whole country was being pushed towards disaster, "the economy is shattered and democracy is doomed." "A little more sincerity" from Zia and her main political rival Sheikh Hasina Wajed could overcome the political crisis, he said, pointing out that differences between the two women had narrowed.

Newspaper reports said Ms. Zia's party was considering an opposition proposal to appoint a council of advisors under President

Abdur Rahman Biswas to oversee the upcoming poll.

So far she has rejected their demands for a neutral administration as unconstitutional.

Mr. Biswas told the official BSS news agency that he would exercise his constitutional powers if necessary. Although a member of the BNP he pointed out that as president he no longer belonged to any party and was neutral.

Ms. Hasina Wajed's opposition Awami League has enforced 26 general strikes this year in a bid to bring down Ms. Zia's government. It has called another 48-hour general strike from January 3.

## Seoul may send more rice to N. Korea — minister

SEOUL (R) — South Korea may consider offering further rice aid to Pyongyang if it was limited to feeding civilians, media reports quoted Foreign Minister Gong Ro-myung as saying Saturday.

"The government may offer rice aid to the North if it could be assured the rice would not be used for military purposes and that accurate investigations are allowed to be made of the food situation there," Yonhap news agency quoted him as saying.

As recently as Wednesday, a day after the North returned five captured South Korean seamen, Seoul ruled out further rice aid to Pyongyang and said the issue depended on the North's willingness to change its belligerent attitude towards Seoul.

"The issue of rice aid all depends on North Korea. The return of the Woosung crew should not be seen as a change in North Korea's basic attitude," the deputy unification minister, Song Young-Dae, said. Pyongyang has kept the world guessing in recent weeks by mixing conciliatory gestures with an alleged military build-up on the border it shares with the South.

Thursday, Pyongyang released five surviving crew members of the fishing trawler Woosung, plus the remains of three of their colleagues. The boat was seized in May after straying into northern waters.

But North Korean troops are alleged to have staged military manoeuvres near the demilitarised zone separating North from South. The two nations have been techni-

cally at war since the 1950-53 Korean war. Flood damage this year has depleted already deteriorating food supplies in the North, and led to an unprecedented appeal for help by the reclusive nation.

United Nations food agencies say nearly 2.1 million children in the North risked starvation.

Mr. Gong said the North was 1.2 million tonnes to three million tonnes short of its grain requirement, local media reported.

He was quoted as saying the amount was too large for a single nation to supply on its own.

As the North normally did not like accepting aid purely from Seoul, a consortium of donor nations including South Korea would be a good solution, local media quoted him as saying.

The government also planned to discuss rice aid at a meeting of officials from South Korea, the United States and Japan on Jan. 24-25 in Hawaii, Mr. Gong said.

South Korea shipped 150,000 tonnes of rice to the North this year but halted the programme in October after Pyongyang rebuffed repeated requests to release the Woosung and its crew.

The Korean National Red Cross said it would send an emergency relief shipment of household necessities next month to North Korea. It has already sent two shipments this year, including blankets and other relief goods.

## Heavy blow for Major as Tory MP defects

LONDON (AFP) — An MP from the ruling Conservative Party said she was defecting to the opposition Friday, in a shock move which reduced the majority of Prime Minister John Major's government to just three, and increased the likelihood of an early election.

Accusing the government of "indecision and weak leadership on Europe," Emma Nicholson announced that she was leaving the party and joining the centrist Liberal Democratic Party.

Ms. Nicholson said she could "no longer remain silent when I see Britain's future endangered by the government's indecision and weak leadership on Europe, and Britain's people neglected by a government which does not care."

Her defection will fuel speculation that a general election will be held next year, although the prime minister may try to carry on until the latest possible date of late spring 1997.

It was the second high-profile defection to hit Mr. Major in three months. In early October, Alan Howarth dropped a bombshell during the run-up to the party's annual conference by announcing that he was defecting to the Labour Party, the first Tory MP ever to do so.

Mr. Howarth said at the time that between 30 and 40 other Tory MPs broadly shared his view of the government.

Ms. Nicholson's defection came a day after Conservative Party Chairman Brian Mawhinney told rank-and-file Tories to be prepared for general elections, adding that they could be called next year.

Speaking on British Television, Mr. Mawhinney told local Conservative organisations "to put your association on election alert now."

Ms. Nicholson's defection immediately reduces Mr. Major's Commons majority to three, and as a former vice-chairman of the Tory Party her loss will be an unexpected and damaging blow to the government.

She said that she did not propose to run in the next general election, but hoped to pursue a political career as a Liberal Democrat candidate for European Parliament elections.

Ms. Nicholson has been MP for west London since 1987.



Italian Prime Minister Lamberto Dini confirms at a press conference that he hands in his resignation to President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro (AFP photo)

## Dini offers resignation, Italy looks to reform

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Lamberto Dini tendered his resignation Saturday, confronting Italy's rival political forces with a choice between a swift general election or working together to give the country the stability it lacks.

Mr. Dini, a former central banker who has headed an unelected government of technocrats since January, held a brief meeting of his 11-month-old cabinet to advise ministers of his decision, an official statement said.

He then went to the Quirinale presidential palace to submit his resignation offer to President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro.

Mr. Scalfaro, the supreme arbiter in Italian politics, has already signalled that he will reserve judgment on the offer and instead send Mr. Dini to parliament for a debate early in January on the country's political future.

The parliament was elected in March 1994 following the disgrace of Italy's old governing class in the country's corruption scandals, but it is so severely splintered that it is incapable of sustaining a political party government.

Mr. Dini, who heads Italy's 54th government since World War II, was

brought in to the breach after media magnate Silvio Berlusconi's conservative coalition government fell apart just seven months into office.

His long-awaited resignation clears the decks for a decision by parliament on whether to move to an early election, some time in the first half of 1996, or pull together in a cross-party government with two years to revise the constitution.

Mr. Dini remains a prime candidate to head whatever government emerges.

The main centre-right and centre-left blocs are far apart on the type of electoral and institutional reforms that will be needed to give Italy a system of durable, efficient government.

But Mr. Berlusconi, leader of the centre-right Freedom Alliance, and his main rival, leftist leader Massimo d'Alema, both pledged Saturday to try to strike a deal.

Mr. Berlusconi, who has softened his strident calls for a snap election at all costs, told La Stampa newspaper Italy needed a political and social treaty to modernise its workings and ensure it was in shape to join a single European currency in 1999.

He called for a "transpar-

ent and open alliance between opposites who for once lay down their arms and set aside partisan interests to work for the good of the country."

"When a business is in trouble the first thing you do is reestablish agreement among its shareholders," the billionaire tycoon said.

Mr. d'Alema, whose ex-communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) is the biggest force in the centre-left "Olive Tree" coalition which has supported Mr. Dini in parliament, said the PDS would not reject Mr. Berlusconi's initiative out of hand.

"We want to explore seriously whether there is room for an agreement. We have already lost 18 months on the path to reforms," he told the PDS newspaper L'Unita, warning that the alternative was a "quagmire."

The PDS Friday proposed giving Mr. Dini a mandate to govern for a further six months until the end of Italy's European Union presidency next June.

It said the rival blocs should use the first 60 days to explore whether room existed for an agreement on a cross-party government of reforms, with an election in June if they fail.

## Jack and Jessica — 1995's favourite British names

LONDON (AFP) — Jack and Jessica were the most popular names for British babies born in 1995, according to a report published here Thursday. Both names rose from 1994 to claim top spots in the boys' and girls' lists as last year's favourites Thomas and Rebecca slipped back a third, according to the report by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. This year has also seen a surge of support for Shannon as a name for girls, rising 22 places to 11th, and three names made the top 50 for the first time — Ellie, Abbie and Kayleigh. Daniel was the second most popular boy's name while James slipped from second to fourth. Among the girls, Lauren remained in second place, with Sophie fourth, followed by Charlotte and Hannah. Currently out of favour are boys' names Andrew and Jonathan — they both dropped seven places to 27th and 36th respectively — while Anna, Louise, Richard, Stephen and Mark have all fallen out of the top 50. Up-and-coming names in the lists include Camryn, in 46th place, Reece (48) and Charlie (49). These names did not even feature in the top 100 lists ten years ago.

## Clubs forced to provide water to prevent drug deaths

LONDON (AFP) — A London local authority announced new rules to force nightclubs to provide free water in an attempt to reduce deaths from the drug "ecstasy." Camden Council in north London introduced the new measure — under which "rave" clubs face fines of up to 2,000 pounds (\$3,000) if they do not comply — in the wake of the death of Leah Betts, who died after taking the drug at her 18th birthday party last month. Her death provoked a national debate on the dangers of ecstasy after the girl's parents appealed publicly to young people to learn from their daughter's fate. A Camden spokesman said Friday the move "does not legitimise ecstasy. We are not condoning taking illegal substances. We insist on fire escapes, but we don't condone arsonists." Dehydration has been one of the factors in many of the 50 deaths that have occurred in Britain from taking the drug.

## MP held then freed after giving out hashish in the street

ROME (AFP) — A radical Italian member of parliament, Marco Pannella, who is pressing for the legalisation of soft drugs, was arrested Friday after handing out hashish in the centre of Rome. He was freed after questioning by police but is liable for prosecution. Mr. Pannella announced some days ago that he would court imprisonment to further his cause. Thursday he gave 200 grammes of hashish to an announcer of the state-owned Rai-Due television channel during a live broadcast. "A deputy caught in the act must be arrested. I threw eight doses and three packets of hashish to whoever wanted them and I must be tried for that," Mr. Pannella told newsmen Friday in the Piazza Navona here. The distribution and sale of drugs, either hard or soft, is punishable by prison in Italy. Mr. Pannella was arrested earlier this year after a similar incident in Rome. His party is currently collecting signatures for a referendum on the legalising of soft drugs.

## Cousteau joins Keating Commission to ban the bomb

SYDNEY (AFP) — Renowned French ecologist and explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau has joined the Australian government sponsored commission to ban nuclear weapons in a public relations coup for Prime Minister Paul Keating.

Chinese diplomat Qian Jiadong, a former ambassador for disarmament, has also agreed to serve on the commission, launched by Mr. Keating last month to work out proposals to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

The appointments, announced by Mr. Keating late Friday, came 24 hours after France conducted the fifth in its current series of nuclear tests in the South Pacific, flouting world opinion and drawing another wave of condemnation.

Mr. Cousteau is the second French international celebrity to join the Keating

Commission after former Prime Minister Michel Rocard accepted the appointment last month.

Other members include former U.S. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara, and the winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize Joseph Rotblat.

However, France has said the deliberations of the commission are unlikely to influence French policy or actions.

The latest appointments take to 17 the membership of the commission, which will meet for the first time next month.

Mr. Keating said the commission should be large enough to encompass a range of specialisations needed for its task but not so large as to be unwieldy.

Mr. Cousteau, he said, had a unique international reputation for his work on environmental issues, notably in marine conservation, and a

strong personal commitment to the cause of nuclear disarmament.

"With these two most welcome additions I am confident that the commission is appropriately structured to carry out its mandate," Mr. Keating said in a statement.

The commission will meet in Canberra from January 23 to 25 and has been asked to report by August next year.

Australia's ambassador to the United Nations, Richard Butler, who will head the commission, said this month that it would target rogue states and terrorist groups in its campaign for a global ban on nuclear weapons.

Among its major objectives will be new international legislation halting the production of weapons grade fissile material. Mr. Butler said.

## Final results released for Russian parliamentary elections

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's central electoral commission Friday released final official results for the proportional representation vote in the Dec. 17 parliamentary elections won by the Communist party by a huge margin.

The results came after a final check of all the ballot papers by the commission. In the proportional representation share of the vote, which filled half of the 450 seats in the state Duma or lower house, the Communist Party came first with 22.3 per cent.

The ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party

(LDPR) came second with 11.18 per cent, followed by the government party Our Home Is Russia with 10.13 per cent and the liberal Yabloko Party with 6.89 per cent.

None other of the 43 parties that competed in the Dec. 17 vote to the state Duma crossed the five per cent minimum barrier to be eligible for seats allocated under the proportional system.

The closest to the five-per cent threshold were: Women of Russia (4.61 per cent), the hard left Communists-Working Russia-for the Soviet Union

(4.53 per cent) and the Nationalist Congress of Russian Communities (4.31 per cent).

The commission said that 69.2 million people voted, out of 107.5 million registered voters. However 1.32 million ballots were declared invalid.

In the single-mandate constituency voting, which fills the other 225 seats, the Communist Party was also well ahead, having won 58 seats, followed by the leftist Agrarian Party with 20, Yabloko with 14 and Our Home Is Russia with 10.

## Philippines captures nine alleged extremists

Manila (R) — Philippine police have arrested nine foreigners holding Iraqi, Sudanese and Saudi Arabian passports who are alleged to be linked to a worldwide movement calling for "a global jihad" (holy war), officials said Saturday.

An extensive variety of explosive devices and weapons seized from the nine indicated they planned to carry out bombing campaigns, officials said.

One of those arrested in police raids Friday was identified as Adel Annon, who officials said is believed to be a brother of Ramzi Ahmed Yousef.

Mr. Yousef is on trial in the United States as an alleged mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing in New York.

"He is known to be or reportedly a brother of Ramzi Yousef," interior Secretary Rafael Alunan told a news conference. Mr. Annon holds an Iraqi passport, he said.

The arrests came more than a week after seven other foreigners — with Pakistani passports — were captured near Manila allegedly involved in a plot to launch attacks in the Philippines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Police said the nine were captured in raids on two Manila apartment buildings.

Police sources said several others were arrested in Friday's operations but this could not be immediately confirmed. "According to our initial



Adel Annon, suspected member of an international terrorist ring, is escorted by Philippine police (AFP photo)

analysis, they are with a global movement calling for a global jihad to promote the establishment of an Islamic empire," Mr. Alunan said in a Manila radio interview.

Police said they seized weaponry including plastic explosives, blasting caps, a TNT bomb, time fuses, detonating cords and a pistol, along with passports, birth certificates and maps of Manila.

"Given the kind of items that were captured from them, apparently they had plans to detonate bombs or explosive devices (but) as to where, how and when and who will be the subject of further interrogations..." Mr. Alunan said.

Mr. Alunan identified the eight others as Abdul Kareem Jassim Bidawi, Haleem Jassim Bidawi, Jamaal Jaloud Y Hato, Ibrahim Abid and Najim Nasser Y Taher all with Iraqi passports. Emad Elmubarak Y Ali, with a Sudanese passport and

Saleh Al Quwaywe and Zaid Al Amer with Saudi Arabian passports.

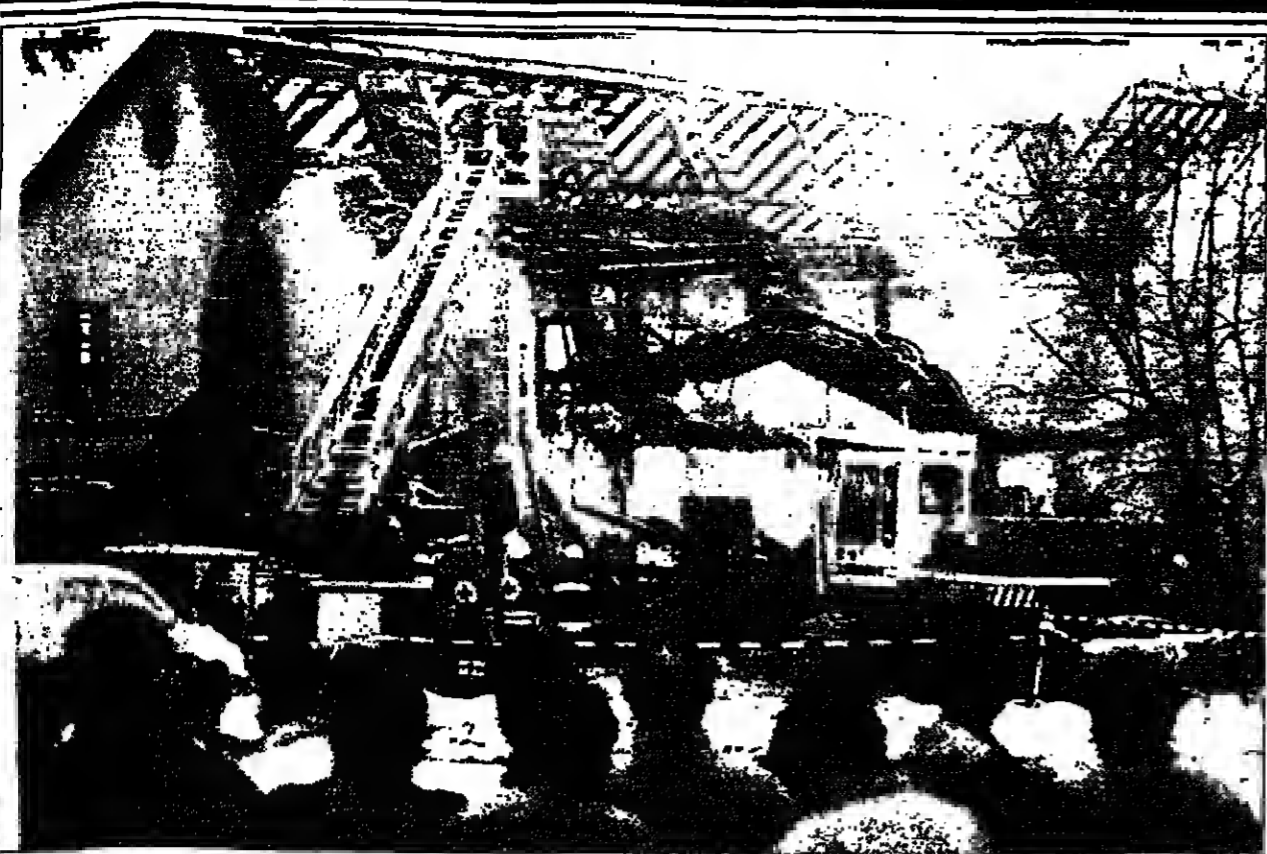
They will be charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives, police said. The same charges were filed against the seven arrested earlier this month.

Officials said it was not yet clear whether the nine had links to the Muslim extremist group Abu Sayyaf based in the southern Philippines which has threatened to launch a campaign of bombings and assassinations in the country.

"This will come out in the interrogations," police spokesman Arturo Lumibao said.

A leader of Abu Sayyaf earlier told a private Philippine television station that his group had received two shipments of arms and had three groups around Manila ready to strike.

Philippine officials say Abu Sayyaf gets arms and training from abroad.



Rescue workers and firemen inspect the remains of a burnt out house of a Turkish family in Schopfheim (AFP photo)

## 4 dead as fire destroys Turkish home

SCHOPFHEIM, Germany (AFP) — Four members of a Turkish family died and five others were seriously injured Friday when fire swept through their home in this southwestern town, police said.

Firefighters took three hours to extinguish the fierce blaze after a neighbour sounded the alert at 5:30 a.m. Police said the cause of Friday's fire remained unclear, but Turks have been the target of racially-motivated arson attacks in recent years.

Rescuers discovered the body of a 38-year-old woman, her nine-year-old son and his 58-year-old grandmother.

Later another body was pulled from the ruins, believed to be that of a 15-year-old boy.

A 19-year-old, the most severely burnt, was rushed to a specialist hospital in Zurich for treatment.

Firemen said they believed the fire had broken out near a wood stove, and police said they had no evidence as yet to suggest foul play.

In addition to the family flat, the building housed the office of a Turkish association and a car repair workshop.

Germany has been badly shaken by a wave of racially-motivated arson attacks, notably the November 1992 incident at Moelln, in which three Turkish people died, and a May 1993 fire in which five Turks perished in Solingen.

A spate of arson attacks against Turkish interests in recent months has been blamed by police on the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the outlawed separatist organisation.

## Yeltsin pledges no U-turn over reforms on return to Kremlin

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin vowed to press ahead with his reform process Friday as he returned to his office in the Kremlin for the first time in two months following heart trouble.

"We will not allow anyone to force us into an about-turn," he pledged as he walked through the Kremlin grounds, just 11 days after watching the Communists notch up big wins in legislative elections.

"The Russians have had enough of experiments. Russia is now in a situation where, if you push it back, there could be disaster," he added, quoted by the Interfax news agency.

His comments echoed similar statements after the Communists emerged as the country's strongest party in elections to the state Duma, the lower house of parliament, on Dec. 17.

They topped the proportional representation share of the vote, which fills half of the Duma's 450 seats, with 22.31 per cent, well ahead of their closest rivals, the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party on 11.06 per cent.

It gave them 100 seats in the Duma, to which they added a further 58 by also topping the poll in single-mandate constituency voting for the other 225 seats.

Pro-reformist and government parties did poorly, with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's Our Home Is Russia winning only 9.89 per cent in the proportional vote and 44 seats in the single-mandate vote.

Mr. Yeltsin, 64, also took time during his walk through the Kremlin grounds to praise the "economic stabilisation" of Russia.

"Growth in industrial production has reached two per cent. We are getting out of the crisis," he said.

The decline in industrial production has slowed down sharply this year, but government estimates predict it will still reach three per cent.

The president also pledged not to work 18 hours a day any more.

"I must not tire myself out," Mr. Yeltsin was hospitalised on Oct. 26 with a myocardial ischaemia, reducing the flow of blood to his heart. He left hospital a month later to recuperate in a sanatorium in the Moscow suburbs.

In recent television appearances he appeared well-rested, perky and slimmer, confounding earlier predictions his political future was over after his second hospitalisation for heart trouble in four months.

The president's health problems risked seriously undermining his political authority this year.

From "chills" to heart attacks in July and October, from extended holidays to spells in hospital, Mr. Yeltsin spent more than half of the year either resting or having treatment.

When in October he was hospitalised for the second time, analysts said his political future was probably over and it was time to name a successor.

However he is almost sure of running in June's presidential elections, barring further health problems, to stem the rise of Communist forces because he remains the reformists' best hope for staying in power.

During his months of enforced rest, Mr. Yeltsin made sure he held onto the key powers of defence, interior, security and foreign policy, including control of the nuclear button.

But in the coming six months he will need to show much dynamism and press a lot of flesh to overcome public disaffection with reforms and widening poverty which fed the Communists' electoral success.

At present, less than three per cent of the Russian population say they have confidence in him.

## Former S. Korean president's health improves after ending hunger strike

SEOUL (AFP) — Jailed former President Chun Doo-hwan, who fell unconscious Friday on the 27th day of a hunger strike, has stopped fasting and his health is improving, a senior doctor said.

"Everything is OK with him and Mr. Chun will be able to take thin rice gruel from Saturday evening and beef soup beginning Sunday," Doctor Lee Kwon-Jon of Seoul Police Hospital told Yonhap news agency.

Dr. Lee said Mr. Chun had eaten a little rice soup that had been brought from his home Friday evening and had even joked about his hunger strike.

"Well now that my fast is over, I think all of those who care about my health will be able to have a happy new year's holiday," Dr. Lee quoted the 64-year-old former head of state as saying.

However Dr. Lee did not predict when Mr. Chun might be well enough to return to Anyang Prison from the hospital where he was rushed last week after losing 10 kilograms.

Doctors put the ex-president on oxygen and an intravenous drip Friday when he slipped into unconsciousness, weak, dehydrated and emaciated from the fast and a severe bout of diarrhoea.

The former general-turned-president started the hunger strike when he was jailed on Dec. 3 on munition charges related to a 1979 coup. He launched the fast to protest his innocence of the charges.

Prosecutors are also set to charge him with accumulating a massive slush fund while in office from 1980 to 1988, and Saturday said they had discovered \$133 million of the black money in an account opened at the Korea Investment Trust Co.

The account, in the name of the presidential security service, had been opened in October of 1983 and was closed when the scandal over a slush fund raised by Roh Tae-woo, erupted in October.

Mr. Roh, who succeeded Mr. Chun as president in 1988 and was Mr. Chun's coup colleague, is also in jail, charged with raising some \$650 million in slush money from businessmen and with assisting Mr. Chun in the 1979 coup.

Mr. Chun's lawyer, Lee Yang-woo, said in a formal statement later Saturday that Mr. Chun had ended his hunger strike "on the cordial advice of his family and doctors" as his health had deteriorated "to the extreme."

The statement said that through his fast the former head of state had expressed his determination to defend the legitimacy of the fifth republic, as the era of his presidency is known in South Korea.

## Sri Lanka rebels ready for talks if army leaves Jaffna

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger guerrillas said Saturday they were ready to resume peace talks with the government if the army left their captured stronghold in the northern town of Jaffna.

The offer came as a rebel suicide bomber blew himself up in the eastern Batticaloa district Saturday morning, wounding an army officer and badly damaging the vehicle he was travelling in.

The rebel Voice of Tigers Radio said the offer by Tiger guerrilla chief Velupillai Prabhakaran was made in a statement read by rebel spokesman Anton Balasingham at a news conference in the north Friday.

The radio, monitored by Reuters in the northern town of Vavuniya, said the rebels would only resume talks in the presence of foreign mediators.

The offer was similar to one made by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam earlier insisting peace talks could be resumed only after the army left Jaffna town and other areas in the rebels' Jaffna Peninsula stronghold captured in early December.

The Tigers unilaterally broke off a three-month truce and withdrew from peace talks in April.

In Batticaloa, a civilian bystander was badly wounded in the bomb attack by the Tiger suicide bomber near the Kallady bridge, a military spokesman said.

"Parts of the suicide bomber's body were strewn all over the place," the spokesman said.

Military officials said the rebels, fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east of the majority Sinhalese island, are trying to destabilise Batticaloa.

The rebels shifted a large number of their fighters there after the fall of Jaffna in early December.

Voice of Tigers Radio quoted Mr. Prabhakaran as saying the mass exodus from Jaffna before its capture by the army showed that the people fully supported the rebels.

The government says more than 50,000 people have died in the 12-year war.

Western aid workers and military officials have said the rebels forced residents to leave Jaffna before the army marched in.

Some 200,000 refugees are now in the northern Vanni mainland, south of Jaffna Peninsula, caught in a tug-of-war between the government, which wants them to return to Jaffna, and the rebels who want them to stay put.

In northwestern Mannar, an eight-year-old girl was killed in an airstrike on rebel positions at Periyapandivirichchan Friday, residents wounded in the attack said Saturday.

Eight people badly wounded in the attack by two Hind MI-24 helicopter gunships were brought to the Vavuniya hospital.

The military spokesman said he had no information on the airstrike.

## Record number of executions in U.S. in 1995

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A record 56 prisoners were executed in 24 U.S. states in 1995 — a number that could increase next year, an anti-death penalty group said Friday.

Since U.S. states were restored the right to choose whether to implement the death penalty back in 1976, more than 300 prisoners have been put to death nationwide, 104 of them in Texas alone, according to the Washington-based National Coalition for Abolition of the Death Penalty.

Fully 38 states have opted to reinstate the death penalty, including New York just this year.

According to recent data, more than 3,000 convicts are awaiting execution on death row.

Southern states are those which have executed the most: 36 people were put to death for their crimes in Florida, 29 in Virginia, 22 in Louisiana, and 20 in Georgia since they restored capital punishment.

Last year, 31 people were executed across the country, down from 38 in 1993.

"We are heading towards 100 executions a year," said Steve Hawkins, director of the coalition.

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Life was widely disrupted in Pakistan Saturday in a general strike called by a multi-party religious front which accuses Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of undermining the country's Islamic identity.

Reports from major cities said commercial activity was largely halted with little traffic on roads, amid a heavy police turnout to prevent trouble.

Up to midday no major incidents were reported. Leaders of the Milli Yekhehad Council (MYC), which sponsored the protest, said their strike call had received a good response throughout the country.

A nearly complete shutdown of markets was reported in southern Karachi, the country's largest city, and long plagued by political violence that has cost more than 1,800 lives this year.

Karachi roads were almost empty, with good strike-backing from the city's influential ethnic group, the Mobajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), representing Urdu-speaking settlers.

In Lahore, capital of Pakistan's wealthiest and most populous Punjab province, police baton charged to disperse a small crowd burning tires in the streets, witnesses said.

At least three religious activists were slightly injured in a clash with police in Sheikhupura, a Punjab town, witnesses said.

A partial business shutdown was also reported in the north west frontier province, where MYC members marched in the provincial capital, Peshawar, ahead of a planned public meeting in the city centre.

However reports said transport was operating normally in Peshawar.

"The masses are fed up with the government," said 70-year old MYC chief, Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani.

"We believe in peace. This is a peaceful strike and that is why it is a successful strike," Mr. Noorani said in a statement. "It is proof that people want to show their Islamic identity."

"The prime minister who says deeni madrasas (religious schools) are training centres for terrorists has been proved wrong," the MYC leader said.

He said the government was "undermining the Islamic identity" of Pakistan and waging a campaign against religious institutions and clerics. "We have united to safeguard the country's Islamic ideology," he added.

Mr. Noorani also accused the government of toadying to the anti-fundamentalist line of the United States and the West, saying "The people of Pakistan are opposed to the new world order being imposed by the U.S."

Ms. Bhutto's arch political foe, former Prime Minister Nawa Sharif, who heads the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League, has also supported the MYC.

An official spokesman, quoted by The News daily, said the people had complete confidence in Ms. Bhutto's leadership.

## Police formally identify body

LONDON (AFP) — Police said Friday they had formally identified a body found earlier in the day as that of missing French student Celine Figard.

Figard's naked body was discovered by a motorist in woods near a motorway rest area in western central England, 120 kilometres from a gas station near Newbury, southern England, where the 19-year-old accountancy student was last seen on Dec. 19 climbing into a white Mercedes truck.

She was formally identified by her 24-year-old cousin Jean-Marc Figard, who had travelled from the Asburn Hotel at Fordingbridge, southern England, where he works as head waiter.

Figard had been on her way to spend Christmas with her brother when she disappeared.

The cause of death has not been released.



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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.  
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Editor-in-Chief:  
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Editorial and advertising offices:  
 Jordan Press Foundation,  
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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## Action vs rhetoric

FIVE LONG years have elapsed since the disastrous Gulf crisis and war divided the Arab World, eliminated Iraq as an important regional player and put the Iraqi people on a merciless track of agony and suffering. Many things have changed since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. But the suffering of the Iraqi people persists, with no signs of concern from their leadership or an effective mechanism for help from the other Arab countries.

Jordan has now stepped in to put an end to the empty rhetoric which has characterised the Arab response to the pleas of help emanating from Iraq by proposing a plan of action that can help lift the plight of the Iraqi people.

The plan may or may not work. But the fact that Jordan has articulated it means that someone is at least serious about the need to save Iraq and its people. Compared to the rhetoric others have made about Iraq, the Jordanian proposal is centred around a plan of action whose mechanism is clear, objectives noble. Jordan says that the only way to help the Iraqis and save their country from a bloodbath is to encourage them to get together to articulate a policy of national reconciliation. Jordan insists that the role of all outsiders, including itself, is restricted to facilitating a meeting and providing the participants with the help that they might need in order to get going. Above all, the Kingdom unequivocally states that the objective of the gathering should be to maintain the territorial integrity of the country, to create a pluralistic system under which the rights of all Iraqis can be respected and to rehabilitate Iraq to play its legitimate role as a member of the region and the international community.

No one who is genuinely concerned about the fate of Iraqis can object to such a proposal, for it embodies all the goals that the Iraqis and the Arabs, at least publicly, envisage for a post-Gulf war Iraq.

Against this backdrop, those who want to help the Iraqis should either support the Jordanian proposal or come up with a more workable and viable alternative. Otherwise, there will be one explanation for their objections: It is not the well-being of Iraq that they seek, it is the serving of their limited and personal interests which they want to achieve at the expense of Iraq and its people.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE FEELING of optimism which marked the atmosphere surrounding the Israeli-Syrian negotiations in Washington did not result from the death of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, nor did it come as a sudden inspiration of Syrian President Hafez Assad, said a writer in Al Ra'i daily. Most probably, this optimism came about in the light of progress achieved through negotiations going on behind the scenes and outside the framework of the public meetings between the two sides, according to Tareq Masarweh. It seems that Damascus and Tel Aviv are now in agreement on what has been described as "regional peace," which, among other things, provides for Israel's recognition of Syria's interests and privileges in Lebanon, said the writer. Therefore, one can conclude that Syria's earlier display of dissatisfaction with Jordan's attitude and its peace treaty with Israel or the Palestinians' conclusion of the Oslo deals with the Jewish state was tactical, and because they have not waited for Damascus to achieve its own peace with Tel Aviv, said the writer. There is no doubt now, added the writer, that with the achievement of a Syrian-Israeli peace, which is drawing closer everyday, Lebanon will be transformed into a "self-rule area."

FAKHRI KAWAR, a writer in Al Dustour, said the public is dissatisfied with the government's attitude vis-a-vis the coffee question. As an executive authority, the government has the power to end the monopoly of coffee merchants and bring down the exorbitant prices imposed by a handful of whole sale merchants on the Jordanian people by allowing other merchants to import the coffee, said the writer. He said it was not enough for the government departments not to serve coffee in their canteens, because this is a very limited action that does not have an effective result. The government can force the coffee merchants to lower the prices, and can at the same time help the Jordanian Consumer Protection Society's campaigns, he added. On the other hand, said the writer, supporting the society's endeavours is a national duty; and should this society succeed in bringing down the coffee prices, the road will be paved for it to serve the public through other campaigns in other matters of national interest.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

## Subsidies — a crime against the future

IT IS NOW taken for granted that financial subsidies make a bad policy which, sooner or later, leads to destruction. A subsidy would start by an irresponsible official yielding to pressure and making a decision. Subsidies grow like a snowball and finally expose the very security of the country to high risk. This is similar to a sick man buying time in order for the ailment to deteriorate beyond remedy. France and America gave very relevant examples.

France witnessed recently an extended strike which paralysed public life for several weeks. The reason is that at some time a socialist government decided to increase the entitlements and other claims against the welfare system and social security beyond the limits dictated by the proper economic formulas. The beneficiaries of such irresponsible action rejoiced and reelected the same government for a second term, because it allowed them to enjoy a standard of living exceeding their rights, causing huge losses to the welfare system in the process.

Finally came the moment of truth. The French welfare system is bankrupt. It is unable to meet its financial commitments and repay its huge debts guaranteed by the government. There is no alternative but to face the problem through a radical restructuring overhaul whereby outlays would be curtailed and subscription premiums increased so that a balance may be restored.

Predictably, the millions of beneficiaries rebelled. They only cared for their entitlements and their good life-styles and standards of living. They took to the streets to force the government to back up and to leave things as they are. What counts is that they should pay less, take more, live happily today and let France and its economy go to hell.

In the United States, government offices were shutdown

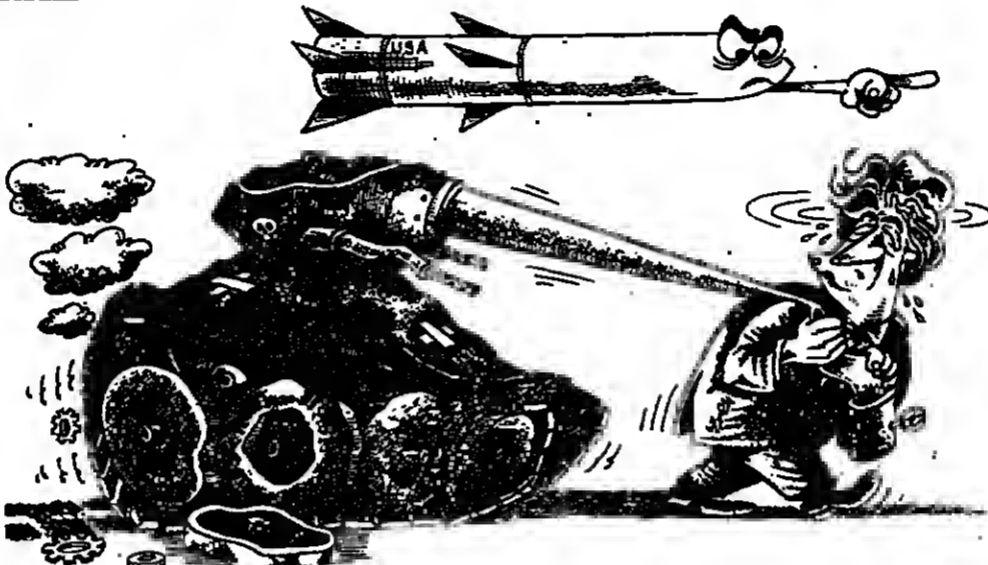
due to lack of funds, because the budget was not agreed upon between the Congress and the president. The Republican Congress insisted on introducing gradual reductions of social expenditure of the budget over seven years in order to balance the budget by 2002, otherwise the treasury will be bankrupt, the dollar will lose value, and prices will break the roof and rise to the sky. However, the Democratic president was not in a position to infuriate the millions of beneficiaries in an election year. Likewise, he cannot raise taxes to cover the deficit, so he reverts to his presidential power of veto. Beneficiaries applauded. For them what counts is their entitlements. They want to live today and let America and its budget go to hell.

When a government makes a financial commitment and gradually undertake to subsidise some group or another, someone will have to pay for that. Officials don't pay from their own private funds. Anything they want to pay must be financed one way or another, by taxes, borrowing or begging for grants at the expense of the country's integrity and perhaps sovereignty.

Those in Jordan who call for subsidising water, electricity, bread and feed; demand raising salaries, retirement pensions and social security entitlements without mention of the means to finance them, gain popularity. They are adored by the mob, but in reality they are stabbing the country in the back, sucking the blood of the homeland and risking its security and future.

Subsidies, and dealing with public funds recklessly pushed us to the crisis of foreign indebtedness. They effectively installed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a custodian for our economic policies. This came natural, because the inefficient planner needs a custodian to take care of him.

M. KAHIL



## A recipe to solve Iraq

By Dr. Jamal Sha'er

A LARGE majority of the Arab people are concerned about the suffering of the Iraqi people and other people too. Most likely those who see things without being affected by outside influences can see that national reconciliation of the Iraqi people has become a required demand. If reconciliation is achieved, this Arab country, which was once a great nation, will be put on the right path and the correct solutions to its problems will be found—these problems that might escalate if this reconciliation does not crystallise.

There is no need to say that the main objective of this national reconciliation is the preservation of the unity of the Iraqi people on all of Iraq's territory and among the different sects. However, this objective could not materialise without following the only viable method (in dealing with the situation in Iraq). This method would entail holding presidential elections in which not only one candidate but many men and women can participate.

There should also be a freely elected parliamentary council. A senate that equally represents the three areas (of Iraq) and has the power to promulgate independent or joint legislation with the House of Parliament and the president should also be formed.

It is only through this way that Iraqis can say to the world that they are one unified people. Only then, can Iraqi expatriates return to their country without fear, and Arabs and neighbouring countries and the whole world would raise their voices demanding the opening of a new page of cooperation with Iraq.

If our King and leader took the initiative to issue a call for a conference that unites the Iraqis in Amman, every Jordanian has to exert all possible efforts to make this call successful instead of jumping into conclusions and predicting its failure in advance, as if some people are only concerned about shaking the confidence in our country and in ourselves. Above all, we are in no need of proving our legitimacy and our qualification to issue

this call.

However, the question of who should be invited and who should be invited remains. These are vital questions that will ensure success and will exclude any interference of a non-Arab country.

Those who meet should be the forces that have effective influence and are capable of achievement and action. First of these is the Iraqi leadership itself. I call for initiating contacts at the highest level with the Iraqi leadership to attend the conference or to deputise others to participate. In addition, the spiritual leaders of Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites and other minorities should be invited as well as leaders and politicians known for their long experiences and clean conduct and who represent all political, tribal and diplomatic shades as well as academicians and human rights activists.

And since national reconciliation necessitates the opening of a new page, the door should be open to all contributions to rebuild Iraq and put its people on the path of progress. The

way to achieve this is to hold consultations at different levels to agree on the list of invitees from inside and the outside as well as to agree on the agenda and the objectives, their implementation and ways of ensuring commitment and follow up to the adopted recommendations.

What is desired and might contribute to the success of this project is the invitation of the largest number possible of Arab leaders to attend it personally and participate in making opinions and be witnesses to the commitment of all parties to the agreed upon recommendations. The first of the invitees could be the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, for reasons that might have become clear.

Such an effort needs sufficient time for preparations to make it successful. It is an attempt in my opinion that has a big chance to succeed and if it does not it will not be the end of the world. We would have tried our best. We are qualified to do that and we will be recompensed by God.

Al Ra'i.

## Lower house rents are possible

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur  
 HOUSE RENT and the rent law in Jordan were the subject of my article last week. Today I want to share with you some of what the father of modern economics, Adam Smith, said about the topic of house rent almost two hundred and twenty years ago. The arguments of this greatest of all economists will no doubt shed new light on our present problem.

Adam Smith recognised that house rent was divided into two parts, the first was a building rent and the second was a ground rent. "The building rent is the interest or profit of the capital expended in building the house. In order to put the trade of a builder upon the same level with other trades, it is necessary that this rent should be sufficient, first to pay him the same interest which he would have had lent if he had lent it upon good security, and, secondly, to keep the house in constant repair, or, what comes to the same thing, to replace, within a certain term of years, the capital which had been employed in building it. The building rent... is, therefore, everywhere regulated by the ordinary interest of money." (The Wealth of Nations 1776). As for the second part of the rent, the ground rent, the remainder of the rent received goes to rent the land. In other words, the rent received by the landlord should at least compensate him/her for whatever expenditure went to build the house and for the money he/she would have made if they had rented the land. How is the rent to be calculated? First, add up the value of the land (how much would you have sold it for) and the cost of the building which will lead you to an estimate of your fixed cost (F). Then estimate the amount of maintenance necessary to maintain the building in its original condition after a family rents it for one year (M). Second, multiply the F value by the market interest rate to obtain an estimate of forgone earnings from building the house.

The forgone earnings are calculated for the period of the rent contract. In other words, if you had bought a treasury note with the money spent on the building of the house then you would have made some revenue from the interest on this money (around 9.5 per cent in Jordan). So if the building cost was JD 100,000 your forgone earnings on the building alone is JD 9500. Add to this a maintenance cost which depends on the size and age and education level of prospective occupants. Let's assume your estimate of the maintenance cost for a prospective tenant is JD 500. Your total building rent is JD 100,000 for the coming year, not inclusive of the land rent.

Let the value of the land that the house was built on be also JD 100,000. The forgone earnings for a year on the land alone will be the earnings forgone from having sold the land and

having purchased a treasury note at 9.5 per cent which would have made you another JD 9500. Thus the total rent of the house according to Adam Smith is JD 19,500 per year.

The above rent estimate changes from year to year as the values of land and building change and as the interest rate changes. Since land value and the interest rate are not fixed, should one draw the contract for very short time periods? Maybe, however, one must also remember that these contracts are costly and their preparation is time consuming. Therefore, yearly contracts seem to be the favourite among landlords in the Western World, especially since the cost of time and legal services are higher there than in Jordan.

According to this method, presented to us hundreds of years ago, the rent law must simply uphold the rights of both parties as specified in rent contracts. Unfortunately, the present law in Jordan makes the owner liable to all of the risks associated with interest rate and land price fluctuations which can make the landlord a net loser in the long run. If you receive JD 1,000 per year in rent under the present rent law and the market interest rate is 9.5 per cent, then the present value of the property is obtained by dividing the JD 1,000 by 9.5 per cent which is JD 10,526. Note that the higher the interest rate, the lower your property value becomes. As a result, landlords either shy away from renting their property and opt to sell it instead to increase their control over their property or they charge exorbitant rents that are supposed to compensate the landlord for all possible property evaluations.

A law as important as the rent law should be based on sound economic principles; the present rent law is not. It is supposed to protect the poor but it doesn't. As I demonstrated last week, it does drive people into building expensive apartments in wealthy neighbourhoods to sell to the upper middle class instead of building inexpensive rental housing units for the lower classes.

The rental law more than any other law has been a cause of misery throughout Jordan. What will happen when it is replaced by a law that protects property and rental rights? People who have been paying the same rent they used to pay in the 1950s will have to pay higher rents, which is hardly unfair since their incomes have increased considerably since then. Simultaneously, more and more real estate investors, especially the institutional investors and major investment corporations, who are presently suffering from a surplus in the selling market, will move into the rental market. As the supply of rental property increases the high rents will fall. Overall a positive change will have occurred. Let's not wait too long.

By Philip Taubman

NEW YORK — Many Russians, to rephrase Winston Churchill, apparently believe that communism is the worst form of government except for all the other forms.

That seems astonishing. After enduring all those endless lines in the Arctic winter to buy a stunted head of cabbage, after quietly suffering all the grandiloquent nonsense about Lenin's ideals and studying Marxism-Leninism until the mind went numb, after watching your country sink into an economic and political stupor, how could you vote for the Communist Party?

Millions of Russians did, raising the Communist Party from the dead and making it the most powerful political organisation in Russia. The resurrection is disturbing, yet at the same time intriguing.

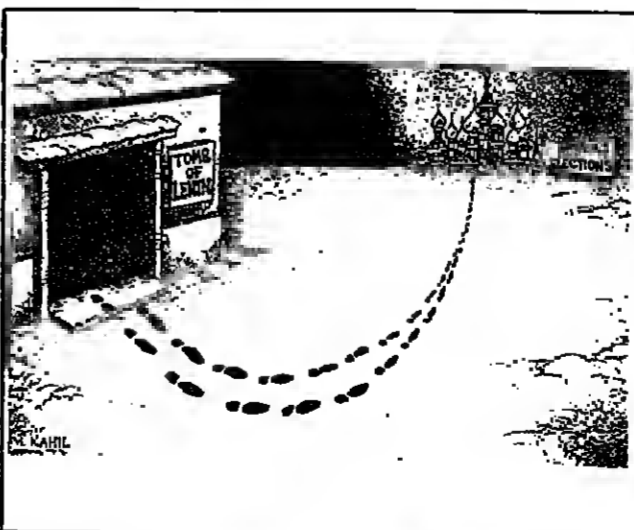
In one sense, the vote seems to be the political version of the Stockholm syndrome, the phenomenon common in hos-

tage cases when terrorised victims begin to identify with their captors.

Russia is still recovering from more than seven decades of Soviet tyranny, and many Russians apparently still identify more closely with the dictators who controlled their lives than with the democrats who freed them.

At the same time, many Russians, particularly the elderly and those still living in rural areas, appear genuinely nostalgic for the security blanket that came with communism.

For all the terrible pain it inflicted, and the millions of lives it destroyed, Soviet communism provided a crude safety net that gave citizens the illusion that the Communist Party was looking after their interests. The development of a free market has ripped away the net. The Communist system



was suffocating, patronising and calculated to keep the country obedient. Some Russians recognised it as a narcotic, and fought to overcome it. The internal security forces were always there to silence them.

Most Russians chose not to take that risk, or ceased to care what the purpose of the system was as long as bread was cheap, jobs were plentiful, education was universal, health care was free and vacations were

subsidized. The bread was excellent, but many people now seem to have forgotten that lots of the jobs were pointless, education was politically contaminated, health care was atrocious and Soviet vacations were Spartan.

The whole enterprise was ideologically dressed up as a workers' paradise. Although some Russians were true believers, most were smart enough to see through the pseudo-science. But the system still enveloped them.

Now that people have had a taste of unemployment, inflation, crime and other problems that have come with democracy, it is shrewd politics for the new Communists to suggest that the old days were actually pretty good. The party, at least for now, has distanced itself from the most brazen practices of the past, includ-

ing one-party politics, censorship and repression of dissent.

The reporting and the polling data from Russian show that the Communists gained from discontent about an uneven economy and upheaval in Russian life. Voters in Moscow, St. Petersburg and some other urban centres, where the benefits of reform have materialised most quickly, voted for reform candidates. Nearly everywhere else, Communists and nationalists did well, singing from essentially the same page of promises about restoring order and economic stability, shorthand for the Communist safety net.

Reform in Russia is far from dead, but it has run into a formidable obstacle — the past. To prevail in the months and years ahead, the reformers will have to convince millions of their countrymen that the uncertainty of freedom is preferable to the security of communism, as deadening as it was.

The New York Times

Lower house  
nts are possible

# Salvage project in Southern Ghors highlights scale, persistence of tomb robbing tradition

By Rami G. Khouri

Special to  
the Jordan Times

The vexing problem of how to protect Jordanian antiquities sites from the plundering of tomb robbers and their expanding network of clients in Jordan has been dramatised again by recent events at the boge Early Bronze Age cemetery at Bab ed-Dhra, along the south-east coast of the Dead Sea. A recent spree of grave robbing in an area that was not previously known to house a cemetery prompted American archaeologist David McCreery and the Jordanian Department of Antiquities to mount a brief salvage excavation that has added some new information to our knowledge of the culture of the people who inhabited that area five thousand years ago, and our knowledge of the market for stolen antiquities in Amman.

What is so shocking about the theft of tomb goods, mainly pottery, at Bab ed-Dhra is not only the extent of the looting (hundreds of tombs at a time in some cases) or its long time scale (the problem has been known since the site was first explored in 1924); it is also that the pace of tomb robbing has increased in the Southern Ghors region in recent years, and that stolen antiquities from Early Bronze Age cemeteries are now routinely and openly sold in reputable retail shops in Amman.

The four-day Bab ed-Dhra Salvage Operation in November aimed to map the site, determine its relationship to other known Early Bronze (EB) Age cemeteries in the immediate area, and collect representative pottery, bone samples and any other material goods from tombs that had been illicitly opened and pilfered. Dr McCreery, a professor of religion and archaeology at Willamette University (Oregon, USA) who spent the last half year in Jordan as a Fulbright Scholar, excavated at Bab ed-Dhra in the 1970s and is well versed in Early Bronze Age issues.

His efforts this year identified 39 new EBIA shaft tombs that had been opened by the robbers. Shaft tombs typically comprise a vertical central shaft dug into the ground, from which separate burial chambers radiate out horizontally. Tombs could have up to five separate burial chambers connected to a single shaft, though two or three chambers was most typical. The average size of the shafts was about one metre in diameter and two metres in depth. The average oval-shaped burial chamber was 1.5 metres long, 1.7 metres wide and 85 centimetres high.

The 39 tombs opened by the robbers included a total of 64 burial chambers, of which 44 were unsilted and 20 silted. The silted chambers were full of silt (water, sand and marl) that seeped



A typical burial of disarticulated skeletons in an Early Bronze Age tomb at Bab ed-Dhra (Photo by D. McCreery)

into them through natural action during the last five millennia. The deeper chambers tended to be unsilted, and in some cases included some remarkably well preserved bones and funerary items such as reed mats or wooden objects.

## Nomads or settled villagers?

The EBIA period is conventionally dated to around 3200-2900 BC, with the very earliest EBIA era dated to around 3200-3100 BC. Also known as the "proto-urban period", the EBIA period is historically important because it immediately preceded the first known walled towns that appeared in Palestine, Jordan and others parts of the Levant in the EBII period (c. 2900-2700 BC). Most historians and archaeologists assume that EBIA people in the southern Jordan region lived oomadic or semi-nomadic lives and returned seasonally to bury their dead at huge cemeteries such as those at Bab ed-Dhra and other places in the Jordan Valley.

This thesis is being challenged by some archaeologists who believe that EBIA cultures probably included permanent villages and settlements that we have not identified — either because scholars today have not searched for them sufficiently

vigorously, or because the nature of the settlements (tent, of straw dwellings, or low, mud-brick huts) makes them inherently difficult or impossible to identify. Dr McCreery reports that recent bulldozing activity has exposed some mudbrick walls west of Bab ed-Dhra that probably date from the EBIA period — perhaps from one of the elusive EBIA settlements that may have existed contemporaneously with the early cemetery?

The main reason why EBIA peoples are assumed to have been oomadic is that their burials are almost all secondary burials of disarticulated skeletons — piles of bones that are no longer in a complete skeleton but rather are piled up in a mass of bones, with the skulls of oomadic people on the body bones. It is assumed that oomadic people on the move buried their dead in temporary cairns (stone piles) that allowed the body to decompose until only the skeleton was left; the bones were then carried in a bag for re-burial in their final resting place in the Bab ed-Dhra cemetery.

Dr McCreery suggests that we may have to revise our commonly accepted interpretations of EBIA culture in southern Jordan in light of the information being gleaned from Bab ed-

Dhra and other sites. The predominance of disarticulated skeletons in the EBIA tombs is not necessarily an indicator of nomadic cultures, he says, because disarticulated skeletons were also common in the "charnel houses" that EBII townspeople used to bury their dead. It is possible that the cairns used for burials around the country were only temporary deconcentration chambers where the dead body was placed in order for the flesh and organs to decompose, and in antiquity were not intended to be permanent burial sites.

Disarticulated secondary burials are also practised today by villagers as well as nomads. Dr McCreery believes that we should also take into consideration the possibility that EB cultures had a different view of death than we do today. Perhaps the EB people saw death as merely another act in a person's life, and thought that the dead person departed on a voyage to another world while his or her body was decomposing — with the total decomposition of the body marking the end of the voyage, at which point the bones could be collected and permanently placed in the ancestral burial ground.

He also points out another factor that argues for a settled rather than a nomadic population in the

EBI period: the very intensive exploitation of the burial ground. The tomb chambers were often dug so close together that they opened into one another, creating a kind of bone-combing effect. This suggests that the people who dug the graves knew exactly where the adjacent chambers were located. This argues well for resident tomb cutters who lived permanently in the area and specialised in this activity, rather than itinerant oomads who passed through once or twice a year and cut new graves as needed.

All the skeletons found were disarticulated, except for one fully articulated adult skeleton against the back wall of one chamber. Most bone piles were found in the centre of the chambers, with skulls laid to the left of the entrance and the bone piles and pottery grave goods around the right side. Most chambers had several burials, both adults and younger people, with three-to-five skulls commonly found in each chamber.

The bone piles were placed on reed mats, most of which had disintegrated into a powdery form, though in several cases water seepage had formed clear impressions of the reed weaving patterns in the floor. McCreery's team also found uncarbonized wood fragments in two different

chambers. The most common wood items were staffs measuring some 3 cm in diameter (probably used as walking sticks) but included the remains of a wooden bowl.

An unusual find was a kind of flat wooden "pallet" or "board", of which four were identified. They measured around half a metre long, 2-6 centimetres thick, and some 20 centimetres wide, with one rough and one smooth side and a slightly bowed overall shape. They look like miniature threshing sleds, and originally had several holes in them. The purpose of these wooden boards remains a mystery.

Pottery recovered from the looted tombs included 54 whole and seven partial objects, with evidence that the robbers only were interested in whole objects in perfect condition. A bowl with a few missing rim chips was left behind, presumably because the robbers — or their patrons — thought it was too damaged to sell. The most common pottery shapes were large and medium V-shaped bowls, followed by medium jars, small bowls, and jugs. The pottery seems to closely resemble the early to middle EBIA pottery previously excavated in tombs to Cemetery A.

Dr McCreery concludes from the brief salvage sea-

son that the area under question is an extension of a larger known ancient cemetery and not a new, distinct cemetery, and that several hundred or even several thousand unexcavated tombs remain to be examined in the area.

## How to protect our heritage?

This raises important and ever more urgent questions about what can or should be done in Jordan to identify unexplored ancient cemeteries and protect them from illicit tomb robbers. "The recent explosion of tomb robbing activity at Bab ed-Dhra, Safi and Feifeh, coupled with the ambitious development plans for this region in the post-peace era, presents a compelling argument for intensified efforts to protect the antiquities of the Southern Ghors and to conduct further scientific investigations before more data is lost," Dr McCreery told the Jordan Times in a recent interview in Amman.

The oaked theft of Jordanian antiquities and our cultural heritage, symbolised by the sale in Amman of EB pottery from Bab ed-Dhra and other Southern Ghors sites, reconfirms yet again the urgent need to seek a solution to the problem of tomb robbing and illegal excavations. It is now becoming

more clear that antiquities theft is not merely due to poverty at the local level near the ancient sites; it also seems to be part of an organised nationwide and international market that includes peddlers in Amman visiting people's homes. One of the unknown but important issues is the involvement of merchants, patrons and middlemen from the main Jordanian cities in the highlands.

While it had always been assumed that most tomb robbing was the work of poor local residents of the Southern Ghors, many archaeologists now tend to lean towards the theory that this is a well organised industry managed by wealthy, powerful patrons and middlemen in Amman and other highland cities who hire the tomb robbers and channel their stolen goods into retail outlets in Jordan and probably abroad as well. A typical Early Bronze Age cup can be bought in otherwise reputable handicrafts shops in Jabal Amman for around eleven dinars. The same piece, when smuggled out of the country, sells for between \$50 and \$100 in Israel, Europe or North America. Given the scale of tomb robbing in Jordan, this is an enormously profitable business. More disturbing are the signs that some stolen grave goods are being sold in handicrafts outlets in which government-owned banks are important shareholders.

The fact is, the mechanics, patrons and causes of the obviously expanding Jordanian tomb robbing industry are not well known, because they have never been systematically studied. Whether this is due to lack of concern or lack of means among the pertinent authorities in Jordan also is not clear. What is becoming increasingly clear, however, is the birth of an organised criminal network of tomb robbers and merchants who practise their craft in the open, and who are also almost certainly developing organised links with international criminal networks of antiquities peddlers.

The Bab ed-Dhra situation begs a response from government and private sector authorities who have never been able to formulate a credible response to the continuing theft and retail sale of our ancient cultural heritage. The Department of Antiquities has traditionally tried to address the problem by fencing off sites or hiring local guards, but these measures have not had any significant impact on the tomb robbers. The larger problem reflects two basic issues: the fact that the government has never given the Department of Antiquities the money and manpower to deal with this problem, and the fact that Jordan has never tried to develop a national policy to explore means of redressing the problem other than through police actions.

## King expresses hope

(Continued from page 1)

is bound to offer in compensation to different countries of the world."

"Why do we favour confederation as a future Jordanian Palestinian option for example and refuse to discuss a federation for Iraq knowing that a confederation is more loose than a federation, and why do we forget that Germany and the United States are federations," he asked. He said that some people have seen only the negative side of the issue. "What we want is to bolster relations among the Iraqis," the King said.

He expressed hope that there would not be any more confusion as to what occurred in the past about this subject. "The whole issue is for the Iraqis them-

selves and Jordan has nothing to do with it. The subject does not revolve around a Jordanian-Iraqi federation or confederation at all."

"Whoever examines the UN Security Council resolutions will find that they are not based on removing the mass destruction weapons alone but they talk about human rights, the north and the south and other issues. Given the fact that we have not succeeded so far in making any progress on the road of removing the agony of the Iraqis, it means we regrettably failed to date to reach a result through dialogue with our brothers in Iraq at the leadership level."

Referring to the proposal of Jordan hosting a conference for the Iraqi opposition

groups, the King said: "There is no talk about any date or any opposition. But these groups had met in other Arab capitals and continue to do so. In fact our talk stemmed from the pain and the fear over Iraq, its present and future should the Iraqis fail to agree on their fate and on tackling their problem."

On normalisation of relations between Israel and Jordan the King said: "So far the relations are good and the two sides ratified all their agreements stipulated in the peace treaty. But as to the positive result in the wider sense I believe we need some more time because the process requires more time."

In reply to a question about which stage is more

dangerous: dealing with war or peace the King said: "From an Arab point of view I believe that the war option was the one that drove us to the present situation. (War) based on sentiments devoid of reason resulted in a record of tragedies that befell the nation."

"Peace opens the opportunity for this people... We are in a race against time to enable the Arab citizens to achieve what others had achieved ahead of them."

Asked if there was any intention of a government reshuffle in Jordan the King said: "There are no plans for that before passing the budget (through Parliament); afterwards we will see how matters develop."

around villages near the attack scene and helicopter gunships raked the area with fire, without causing any casualties, according to Lebanese police.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's U.S. ambassador and member of the peace talks delegation, said: "Israel cannot accept a situation in which we continue discussions with Syria while rockets continue to be fired."

The United States was taking "firm moves towards Syria" to stop the attacks, he said.

The warnings contrasted with the upbeat assessments of the peace talks.

Israeli Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer said: "For the first time the negotiations began to address fun-

damental issues."

And chief Syrian negotiator Walid Mualeem told AFP by telephone from the United States that "the climate was not tense and the atmosphere was comfortable and different" from that of previous rounds and the talks were "useful."

The United States said it was "very encouraged" by the peace talks and expressed confidence that the new rocket attacks on Israel would not slow the process.

Israel and Syrian negotiators, who met for three days this week, unexpectedly stayed on in Washington rather than return to their capitals ahead of a new round of discussions next week.

A U.S. official, who asked not to be named, said that

talks aimed at ending a decades-old state of war were continuing over the weekend "on an informal basis" at undisclosed venues in the Washington area.

No word has filtered out on the substance of the discussions that opened Wednesday at a former plantation outside of the U.S. capital under a strict news blackout.

But Brian Cullin, a White House spokesman, said Saturday: "We were very encouraged with the progress of the talks this week."

The talks on the eastern shore of the state of Maryland were originally scheduled to adjourn before resuming on Wednesday. But negotiators decided instead to remain here to prepare for the next round.

"This is an indication that the talks were constructive," an administration official said.

## Violence in S. Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

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Birthstone of December; Turquoise — Zircon

# NSCP rejects ministry's intervention in dispute with coffee merchants

## Obeidat says case will be presented to parliament

By Ghaila Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—President of the National Society for Consumer Protection (NSCP) Mohammed Obeidat Saturday rejected the interference of the Ministry of Supply in the society's conflict with coffee merchants over the prices of coffee.

Dr. Obeidat told the Jordan Times that the ministry, which he said is "defending merchants more than they are (merchants) defending themselves" should have no role in this issue.

He added that instead of being the "arbitrator," the ministry has become a party to the dispute, which started earlier this month when the society urged citizens to boycott coffee to force merchants to bring down its prices.

"We regret the minister of supply's biased stand in favour of coffee merchants at the expense of consumers. (This stand) goes contrary to the government's support for the coffee-boycott campaign," said a statement issued by the NSCP Saturday.

The Ministry of Supply has indicated approval of coffee prices, saying they were based on legitimate calculations of cost and profit.

Yahya Qawasmeh, director of studies at the ministry, challenged the NSCP to pre-

sent any documents that support its claim that coffee was overpriced.

The NSCP statement described as "strange" the ministry's position, saying that international coffee prices are known. It said the ministry should consult the Customs Department record for accurate information on the prices at which coffee has been imported for the last few months and since they went down at the international market.

Dr. Obeidat said that unofficial data obtained privately from custom's employees prove that the cost at which merchants import coffee is lower than what the ministry's figures show.

He said the reason for this discrepancy is that the ministry usually depends on figures provided by the merchants themselves and does not obtain them from official documents.

The statement said that "unexpectedly," the society has been excluded from the meetings which were held between the ministry and coffee merchants.

"Usually the ministry of supply invites the society to participate in its meetings with merchants regarding pricing of commodities. What we have observed through (the ministry's meetings with coffee merchants) is that the ministry has depended on documents provided by merchants without rely-

ing on its official sources," said the statement.

Dr. Obeidat called for a meeting between the society and coffee merchants during which they would submit their figures and compare them with the ones available to the society.

"The ball is in the merchant's court," Dr. Obeidat added.

He said that the two coffee merchants, whose names he preferred not to mention, had lower prices than the ministry's.

On the other hand, Dr. Obeidat said the reduction of the prices of the "robusta" and "Brazilia" beans does not fulfill the society's demand because "robusta" is considered a "low grade coffee" whose prices are lower than those of grades which the campaign is targeting.

Coffee retailers had told the Jordan Times that "robusta" was not sold to the public until the ministry decided to reduce its price, mixed with "Brazilia," to JD 3.5 per kilogramme.

Dr. Obeidat argued that the consumer does not know the difference between the "good" and "low grade" coffee, adding that based on the international rates, prices of "low grade coffee" should be reduced to JD 2.25.

He said that based on the figures the society obtained through customs employees,

the proposed price is legitimate, challenging merchants to prove otherwise.

"Coffee merchants should end the confusion the consumers encounter regarding the kinds of coffee and the prices of each kind," he said.

He proposed that retailers present coffee beans in their shops according to their kinds and prices.

In a bid to settle the conflict, Dr. Obeidat told the Jordan Times that the case will be presented to the Lower House of Parliament.

"The House should interfere," said Dr. Obeidat.

The NSCP statement said that through Parliament all information and documents will be presented and the truth will appear.

As for the boycott campaign Dr. Obeidat seemed optimistic and said that its success was "above all expectations."

Some Jordanians, on the other hand, criticised the NSCP's campaign, saying that such a campaign should target more important commodities.

Regarding this matter, Dr. Obeidat said that this campaign marks the beginning of the society's efforts to protect consumers' interests.

"The success of this campaign will prompt us to launch other campaigns in the future," Mr. Obeidat added.

### AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING MARKET: AMMAN - SHARAJA  
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179  
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 30/12/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CHANGING PRICE
ARAB BANK PSC	640	148710	235.000	235.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2240	10088	4.500	4.490
BANK OF JORDAN	100	340	3.750	3.800
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	5400	6871	1.240	1.240
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	250	625	2.500	2.500
THE HOUSING BANK	7900	38334	4.800	5.050
JORDAN KHAZAT BANK	873	3651	4.200	4.040
JORDAN CREDIT BANK	39700	43791	1.120	1.120
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	10000	38575	3.850	3.850
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	820	3483	4.250	4.250
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	3950	14653	3.650	3.750
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	42450	38919	9.200	9.200
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	250	1340	5.360	5.600
PHILADALPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	33300	35632	1.040	1.030
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>	<b>138094</b>	<b>385275</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 188.25</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.37</b>
MIDDLE EAST INSURANCE	25000	89000	3.500	3.560
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	850	2358	2.800	2.750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1500	2440	1.600	1.520
AL-BAYRAH AL-BAYRAH INSURANCE	900	3435	3.800	4.000
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>27250</b>	<b>96550</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 120.77</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.57</b>
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	17768	30913	1.750	1.730
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	2250	4068	1.810	1.800
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	14200	14210	1.010	1.000
4900	5995	1.200	1.200	
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	4150	3905	0.940	0.930
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING /AD-DUSTOUR	500	3985	7.900	7.970
UNITED VIOLETS EAST & CO. CO-OPERATIVE HOTEL	3100	7079	2.250	2.300
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	38250	129795	3.360	3.420
JORDANIAN SEPARATIST INVESTMENT HOLDING	700	218	1.150	1.090

SECTOR	VALUE TRADED	INDEX NUMBER	CHANGE
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	<b>152768</b>	<b>305144</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 129.91</b> <b>CHANGE: +0.87</b>
ATTACHED CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	5000	3600	1.200
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	16362	60350	3.700
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINING	45153	144913	3.490
THE ARAB POTASH	46820	5.800	5.800
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	8286	86532	10.250
WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	10000	14300	1.470
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1250	1305	2.380
THE JORDAN WOODEN MILL	750	13763	7.920
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	42775	190329	4.690
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	136	841	6.050
JORDAN BATHS	2500	5738	2.580
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	480	3300	3.400
THE PUBLIC MINING	282	321	2.500
AMM CHEMICAL DEFENSES INDUSTRIES	1600	20043	12.800
SPINNING & WEAVING	2350	4615	1.090
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	280	545	2.120
DAR AL OMAH DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	160	1246	7.700
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	600	3236	5.500
INVESTMENT & HOLDINGS	35500	21300	6.500
ARAB RABAT OVERSEAS & TRADING	12500	23736	1.420
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	19223	31725	1.700
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	9000	9273	1.040
INDUSTRIAL & CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	36500	30810	1.130
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2350	5773	4.850
JORDAN ROCKWELL INDUSTRIES	500	560	1.280
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	2450	2774	1.850
JORDAN SUBSISTENCE	2036	2036	1.330
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	3250	6968	1.050
KANUN INVESTMENT	750	1392	1.600
UNIVERSAL MAHAR INDUSTRIES	2400	10715	1.190
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING CO.	15000	30810	2.000
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	30350	39924	1.480
EL-SAY READY WEAR MANUFACTURING CO.	3187	7141	2.250
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & GLASSWORK	19700	23216	1.400
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRIES	800	1297	1.630
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>323826</b>	<b>873034</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 129.95</b> <b>CHANGE: +0.75</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>641938</b>	<b>1659993</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 159.17</b> <b>CHANGE: +0.89</b>

## BUSINESS

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Four new major firms complete registration procedures, commence work

★ A NUMBER of new public shareholding companies have recently announced the completion of registration procedures and declared their commencement of operations. The companies are: The National Investment Real Estate Company, the United Textile Group Company and Al Saqer (Falcon) for Investment and Financial Services Company and the Amman Agricultural and Industrial Investments Company.

The National Investment Real Estate Company has a JD 2.5 million capital and will be run by a nine-member board of directors representing the Business Bank, the Housing Bank, the General Arabia Insurance Company, the Industrial Resources Company, Rajai Muasher and Brothers Company, the National Securities Company and Al Madan for Multi Investments Company, in addition to Mohammad Zuhdi Malhas and Mohammad Yacoub Al Uri. The head of the founding committee, Rajai Muasher, said the company would buy land and real estate in various areas of the country and would engage in building housing, tourism and commercial projects.

The United Textile Company has a JD 20 million capital spread among 50 shareholders who subscribed to JD 19 million, or 95 per cent of the equity, leaving only five per cent to be covered by new investors. According to Abdul Khaleq Mohammad Hussein, head of the founding committee, a portion of the capital is in the form of fixed assets, given by the partners in the group, valued at JD 12.9 million. The company aims at spinning natural and industrial threads and manufacturing textiles, in addition to trading in ready-made clothes. Mr. Hussein will head the board of directors which also comprises Nidal Abdul Haj (vice chairman), Khaleq Hussein, Fawzi Sawwan, Usamah Sukkari, Ahmad Mbeideen and representatives from the Arab Bank, the Jordan Gulf Bank and Abdul Khaleq Mohammad and Sons Company.

The Al Saqer (Falcon) for Investment and Financial Services Company has a JD 5.5 million capital of which JD 4.125,000 was covered by the founders and the remainder through private subscription. The company aims at investing in all sectors, conducting studies and consultancy reports and extending credits whether directly or indirectly through agreements with banks and financial institutions. According to Bassam Attari, vice-president of the founding committee, the company will be the first in the Kingdom to buy long-term receivables and debts as well as collecting and classifying credit information for the use of banks and credit institutions. Mr. Attari said the company will begin operations in early 1996. Al Saqer's shareholders are eight banks, three insurance companies and a number of investment firms. Board members are Faisal Al Sheikh Amer, Jawad Hadid, Bassam Attari, Fouad Bajjali, Ragheh Abdul Rahman, Fares Awartani, Farouq Zlater, Ibrahim Abu Hijleh in addition to the Jordan French Insurance Company, the Orient for Investment Projects company and the Grmad Construction Company.

The Amman Agricultural and Industrial Investments Company has a JD 4 million capital of which 92.5 per cent, or JD 3.7 million, is spread among 57 founders and shareholders. The remaining JD 300,000 will be covered later by some investors. The company was registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Sept. 28, 1995, and it aims at carrying out all kinds of agricultural work, including marketing and exporting produce and setting up facilities for flower plantations and hot houses. In addition, the company aims at establishing industries to process animal, agricultural products and fish. Abdul Rahman Al Mughbrahi is the board chairman and Aktham Qusous, Amin Beidas, said Hijazi, Ismail Arwan, Nabil Abu Ghazaleh and Sameh Al Mughbrahi are board members (Al Rai + Al Aswaq + Al Dustour).

## JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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### Financial Markets

In cooperation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close	New York Close
US Dollar	1.3472	1.3518
Deutsche Mark	1.4585	1.4585
Swiss Franc	1.1555	1.1535
French Franc	6.2718	6.2865
Japanese Yen	102.62	102.42
European Currency Unit	1.2745	1.2776

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.57	5.57	5.58	5.18
Sterling Pound	6.70	6.30	6.18	6.71
Deutsche Mark	3.56	3.56	3.43	3.37
Swiss Franc	1.62	1.62	1.54	1.50
French Franc	4.05	4.05	4.08	4.05
Japanese Yen	0.16	0.16	0.25	0.25
European Currency Unit	5.18	5.12	5.08	5.00

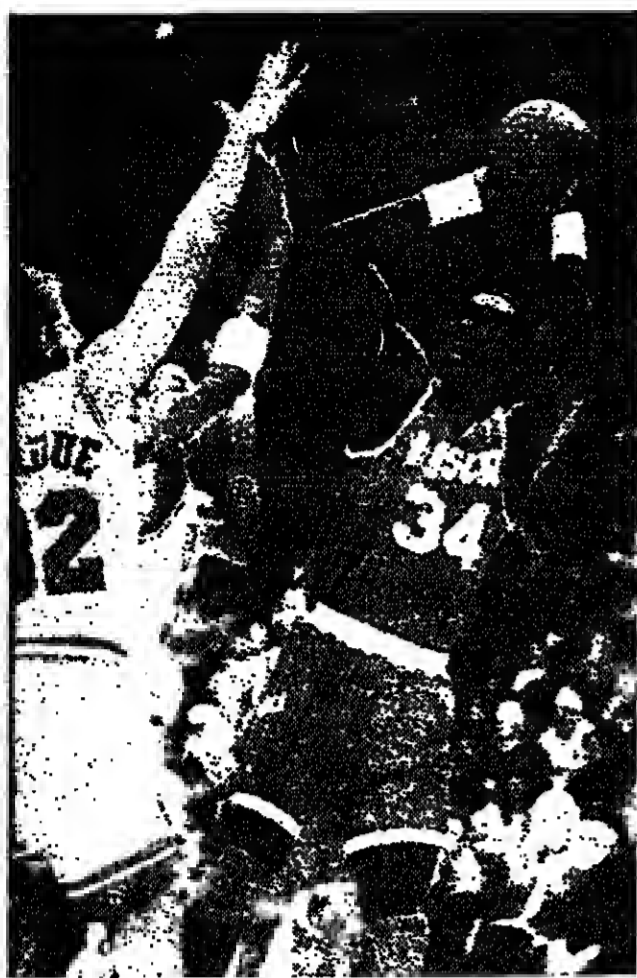
Month	USD/GM	JD/GM	Month	USD/GM	JD/GM
Gold	387.30	7.70	Silver	5.19	0.100

Currency	Buy	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.2080	0.2100
Sterling Pound	1.2654	1.1921
Deutsche Mark	0.4919	0.4944
Swiss Franc	0.6150	0.6157
French Franc	0.1467	0.1469
Japanese Yen	2.6440	2.6374
Dutch Guilder	0.4395	0.4417
Swedish Krona	0.0445	0.0445
Italian Lira	0.0445	0.0445
Belgian Franc	0.0445	0.0445

Currency	Buy	Offer
Liberal Dollar	1.8020	1.8260
Lebanese Lira	0.043850	0.044450
Saudi Riyal	0.1870	0.1888
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.2070	0.2070
Qatari Riyal	0.1852	0.1845
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2200
Omani Riyal	0.8330	1.8410
UAE Dirham	0.1922	0.1933
Czech Koruna	0.2875	0.3155
Cypriot Pound	1.5225	1.5188

# A final look back at sports champions in 1995

By The Associated Press



NBA MVP Hakeem Olajuwon to their 2nd consecutive title 34 led the Houston Rockets

## BASKETBALL

### International

European Championship — Yugoslavia  
European Champions Cup — Real Madrid, Spain  
European player of the year — Arvidas Sabonis, Real Madrid  
European coach of the year — Zelimir Obradovic, Real Madrid  
McDonald's Championship — Houston Rockets

### Professional

United States (NBA) — Houston Rockets  
Australia — North Melbourne Giants  
France — Olympique d'Antibes  
Germany — Bayer Leverkusen  
Greece — Olympiakos Piraeus  
Italy — Buckler Bologna  
Spain — FC Barcelona

### WBA

Heavyweight — Bruce Seldon  
Cruiserweight — Nate Miller  
Light Heavyweight — Virgil Hill  
Super Middleweight — Frank Liles  
Middleweight — Jorge Castro

### WBC

Heavyweight — Frank Bruno  
Cruiserweight — Anadet Wamba  
Light Heavyweight — Fabrice Tiozzo  
Super Middleweight — Nigel Benn  
Middleweight — Quincy Taylor

### IBF

Heavyweight — Frans Botha  
Cruiserweight — Alfred Cole  
Light Heavyweight — Henry Maske  
Super Middleweight — Roy Jones Jr.  
Middleweight — Bernard Hopkins  
Junior Middleweight — Terry Norris  
Welterweight — Felix Trinidad

### SOCCER

Nations  
Women's world championship — Norway  
FIFA world youth championship (under-20) — Argentina  
FIFA world under-17 championship — Ghana  
Copa America — Uruguay  
Intercontinental Cup — Denmark  
Afro-Asian Cup — Nigeria  
Caribbean Cup — Trinidad and Tobago  
Central American Nations Cup — Honduras  
Southeast Asian Games — Thailand

International Clubs  
Toyota (Intercontinental) Cup — Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands)  
European Champions Cup — Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands)  
European Cup Winners Cup — Real Zaragoza (Spain)

Austrian Cup — Rapid Vienna  
Belarus League — Dinamo Minsk  
Bulgarian League — Levski Sofia  
Bulgarian Cup — Lokomotiv Sofia  
Croatian League — Hajduk Split  
Cyprus League — Anorthosis Famagusta  
Cyprus Cup — Apoel Nicosia  
Czech League — Sparta Prague  
Czech Cup — Spartak Hradec Kralove  
Danish League — Aalborg  
Danish Cup — FC Copenhagen  
Finland League — Haka  
Finland Cup — HJK Helsinki  
Greece League — Panathinaikos  
Greece Cup — AEK Athens  
Hungarian League — Ferencváros  
Hungarian Cup — VAC Samsung  
Iceland League — IA Akranes  
Iceland Cup — KR Reykjavik  
Irish League — Dundalk  
Irish Cup — Derry City  
Israeli League — Maccabi Tel Aviv  
Israeli Cup — Maccabi Haifa  
Latvian League — skonto Riga  
Lithuanian League — Inkaras  
Lithuanian Cup — Zalgiris Vilnius  
Luxembourg League — Jeunesse Esche  
Luxembourg Cup — Grevenmacher  
Macedonia League — Vardar Skopje  
Macedonian Cup — Silkes Malta League — Hibernian  
Malta Cup — Valletta  
Moldovan League — Zimbru  
Moldovan Cup — Tiligul Northern Ireland League — Crusaders  
Northern Ireland Cup — Linfield  
Norway League — Rosenborg  
Norway Cup — Molde

UEFA Cup — Parma (Italy)  
European Super Cup — AC Milan (Italy)  
Copa Libertadores (South American Championship) — Gremio (Brazil)  
South American Super Cup — Independiente (Argentina)  
CONCACAF Champions Cup — Saprissa (Costa Rica)  
African Champions Cup — Orlando Pirates (South Africa)  
African Cup Winners Cup — JS Kabylie (Algeria)  
CAF Cup — ES Sahel (Tunisia)  
Asian Champions Cup (1994) — Thai Farmer's Bank (Thailand)  
Asian Cup Winners Cup — Bellmare (Japan)

European Clubs  
English League & Blackburn Rovers  
English Football Association Cup — Everton  
English League Cup — Liverpool  
German Bundesliga — Borussia Dortmund  
German Cup — Borussia Mönchengladbach  
Italian League — Juventus  
Italian Cup — Juventus  
Spanish League — Real Madrid  
Spanish Cup — Deportivo de La Coruña  
French League — Nantes  
French Cup — Paris-St. Germain  
Netherlands League — Ajax Amsterdam  
Netherlands Cup — Feyenoord of Rotterdam  
Belgian League — Anderlecht  
Belgian Cup — Club Brugge  
Portuguese League — FC Porto  
Portuguese Cup — Sporting Lisbon  
Scottish League — Glasgow Rangers  
Scottish Football Association Cup — Glasgow Celtic  
Albanian League — FK Tirana  
Albanian Cup — Teuta Durrës  
Armenian League — Shirak  
Armenian Cup — Ararat Yerevan  
Austrian League — Casino Salzburg

Fans held up a sign during Monica Seles' first match after her return to professional tennis in August. Seles did not play for two years after being stabbed in the back during a tournament in Germany

Polish League — Legia Warsaw  
Polish Cup — GKS Katowice  
Romanian League — Steaua Bucuresti  
Romanian Cup — Petrolul Ploiesti  
Russian League — Spartak Vladikavkaz  
Russian Cup — Moscow Dynamo  
Slovakia League — Slovan Bratislava  
Slovakia Cup — Inter Bratislava  
Slovenia League — Olympia  
Slovenia Cup — Mura Sobota  
Swedish League — IFK Göteborg  
Swedish Cup — Halmstad  
Switzerland League — Grasshoppers  
Switzerland Cup — Sion  
Turkish League — Besiktas

Women doubles — Gigi Fernandez, United States and Natasha Zvereva, Belarus  
Mixed doubles — Larisa Neiland, Latvia, and Mark Woodforde, Australia  
Wimbledon  
Men — Pete Sampras, United States  
Women — Steffi Graf, Germany  
Men doubles — Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, Australia  
Women doubles — Jana Novotna, Czech Republic and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Spain  
Mixed doubles — Martina Navratilova and Jonathan Stark, United States  
U.S. Open  
Men — Pete Sampras, United States  
Women — Steffi Graf, Germany  
Men doubles — Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, Australia  
Women doubles — Gigi Fernandez, United States and Natasha Zvereva, Belarus  
Mixed doubles — Meredith McGrath and Matt Lucena, United States  
ATP Tour  
Newsweek Champions Cup — Pete Sampras  
Lipton Championships — Andre Agassi  
Monte Carlo Open — Thomas Muster  
German Open — Andrei Medvedev  
Italian Open — Muster  
World Team Cup — Sweden  
Dumaurier Ltd. Open — Agassi  
Torrey Pines ATP championships — Agassi  
Open de la ville de Paris — Sampras

Turkish Cup — Trabzonspor  
Ukrainian League — Dynamo Kiev  
Welsh League — Bangor City  
Welsh Cup — Wrexham  
Yugoslavian League — Red Star Belgrade  
Yugoslavian Cup — Obilic  
South American Clubs  
Argentine League — San Lorenzo-Velez Sarsfield  
Brazilian National Championship — Botafogo  
Bolivian League — San Jose  
Chilean League — Universidad de Chile  
Colombian League — Junior  
Ecuadorian League — Barcelona  
Paraguayan League — Olimpia  
Peruvian League — Sporting Cristal  
Uruguayan League — Penarol  
Venezuelan League — Caracas FC

Asian Clubs  
Japan — Yokohama Marinos

CONCACAF Clubs  
Mexico — Necaxa  
United States (A League) — Seattle Sounders

## TENNIS

Australian Open  
Men — Andre Agassi, United States  
Women — Mary Pierce, France  
Men doubles — Jared Palmer and Richey Reneberg, United States  
Women double — Jana Novotna, Czech Republic, and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Spain  
Mixed doubles — Natasha Zvereva, Belarus and Rick Leach, United States

French Open  
Men — Thomas Muster, Austria  
Women — Steffi Graf, Germany  
Men doubles — Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis, Netherlands

Wimbledon  
Men — Pete Sampras, United States  
Women — Steffi Graf, Germany  
Men doubles — Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, Australia  
Women doubles — Jana Novotna, Czech Republic and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Spain  
Mixed doubles — Martina Navratilova and Jonathan Stark, United States

U.S. Open  
Men — Pete Sampras, United States  
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Newsweek Champions Cup — Pete Sampras  
Lipton Championships — Andre Agassi  
Monte Carlo Open — Thomas Muster  
German Open — Andrei Medvedev  
Italian Open — Muster  
World Team Cup — Sweden  
Dumaurier Ltd. Open — Agassi  
Torrey Pines ATP championships — Agassi  
Open de la ville de Paris — Sampras

Women doubles — Gigi Fernandez, United States and Natasha Zvereva, Belarus  
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ATP Tour  
Newsweek Champions Cup — Pete Sampras  
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Monte Carlo Open — Thomas Muster  
German Open — Andrei Medvedev  
Italian Open — Muster  
World Team Cup — Sweden  
Dumaurier Ltd. Open — Agassi  
Torrey Pines ATP championships — Agassi  
Open de la ville de Paris — Sampras

ATP Tour world singles championship — Boris Becker  
ATP Tour world doubles championship — Patrick Galbraith and Grant Connell  
Davis Cup — United States

## WTA TOUR

Pan Pacific Open — Kimiko Date  
Lipton Championships — Steffi Graf  
Family Circle Cup — Conchita Martinez  
Italian Open — Martinez  
German Open — Arantxa Sanchez Vicario  
Dumaurier Ltd. Open — Monica Seles  
European Indoors — Iva Majoli  
Philadelphia Women's Tennis Championships — Graf  
WTA Tour — championships — Graf  
Fed Cup — Spain  
Hopman Cup (mixed team) — Germany

## CYCLING

Tour de France — Miguel Indurain, Spain  
Giro d'Italia — Tony Rominger, Switzerland  
Vuelta a España — Laurent Jalabert, France  
Tour de Suisse — Pavel Tonkov, Russia  
Tour Méditerranéen — Gianni Bugno, Italy  
Tour des Flandres — Johann Museeuw, Belgium  
Tour Dupont — Lance Armstrong, United States  
Paris-Nice — Laurent Jalabert, France  
Tirreno-Adriatico — Stefano Colagis, Italy  
Milan-San Remo — Laurent Jalabert, France  
Paris-Roubaix — Franco Ballerini, Italy  
Walloon Arrow Classic — Laurent Jalabert, France  
Liege-Bastogne-Liege — Mauro Gianetti, Switzerland  
Amstel Gold Race — Mauro Gianetti, Switzerland  
Paris-Tours — Nicola Minali, Italy  
San Sebastian Classic — Lance Armstrong, United States  
Kmart Classic — Lance Armstrong, United States  
U.S. pro championships — Nori Alvis, United States

## WEIGHTLIFTING

World Championships  
Men  
54 — Zhang Xiangsen, China  
59 — Leonidas Sabanis, Greece  
64 — Naim Suleymanoglu, Turkey  
70 — Zhan Xugang, China  
76 — Pablo Lara, Cuba  
83 — Pyrros Dimas, Greece  
91 — Alexei Petrov, Russia  
99 — Kakhi Kakhiashvili, Greece  
108 — Igor Razorenov, Ukraine  
108 plus — Alexei Chemerkhin, Russia  
Women  
46 — Guan Hong, China  
50 — Liu Xiaohua, China  
54 — Karnam Malleswari, India  
59 — Chen Xiaomin, China  
64 — Chen J., China  
70 — Tang Weifang, China  
76 — Li Yan, China  
83 — Chen Shu-Chi, Taiwan  
83 plus — Erika Takacs, Hungary

## SAILING

Americas Cup — Black Magic I, New Zealand  
BOC Challenge (around-the-world) — Christophe Auguin, France  
Admiral's Cup — Italy

## SKIING

ALPINE: World Cup  
Men  
Overall — Alberto Tomba, Italy  
Downhill — Luc Alphand, France  
Super-G — Peter Runggaldier, Italy  
Giant Slalom — Alberto Tomba, Italy  
Slalom — Alberto Tomba, Italy  
Women  
Overall — Vreni Schneider, Switzerland  
Downhill — Picabo Street, Sun Valley, Idaho  
Super-G — Katja Seizinger, Germany  
Giant Slalom — Schneider, Switzerland  
Slalom — Vreni Schneider, Switzerland

Handball  
World Championship  
Men — France  
European Cup  
Men — Elgorriaga Bidasoa (Spain)  
Women — Hypo Niederösterreich (Austria)  
Horse Racing  
U.S. Thoroughbred (flat)  
Kentucky Derby — Thunder Gulch  
Preakness — Timber Country  
Belmont — Thunder Gulch  
Breeders Cup Juvenile — Unbridled's Song  
Breeders Cup juvenile filies — Desert Stormer  
Breeders Cup sprint — My Flag  
Breeders Cup mile — Ridgewood Pearl  
Breeders Cup distaff — Inside Information  
Breeders Cup turf — Northern Spur  
Breeders Cup classic — Cigar  
International  
Melbourne Cup — Dorianus  
Japan Cup — Lando  
English Derby — Lammtarra  
Irish Derby — Winged Love  
Prix de l'Arc Triomphe — Lammtarra

## JUDO

Open — David Khakhaleishvili, Georgia  
Heavy — Miguel Aurelio, Brazil  
Women  
Open — Kim Sung-Wyun, South Korea  
Heavy — Josephine Horton, Britain

## ATHLETICS

Men  
100 — Donovan Bailey, Canada  
200 — Michael Johnson, United States  
400 — Michael Johnson, United States  
800 — Wilson Kipketer, Kenya  
1,500 — Noureddine Morceli, Algeria  
5,000 — Ismael Kirui, Kenya  
10,000 — Haile Gebrselassie, Ethiopia  
Marathon — Martin Fiz, Spain  
110 hurdles — Allen Johnson, United States  
400 hurdles — Derrick Adkins, United States  
3,000 steeplechase — Moses Kiptanui, Kenya  
400 relay — Canada  
1,600 relay — United States  
200m walk — Michele Didoni, Italy  
500m walk — Valentin Kononen, Finland  
High jump — Troy Kemp, Bahamas  
Pole vault — Sergei Bubka, Ukraine  
Long jump — Ivan Pedroso, Cuba  
Triple jump — Jonathan Edwards, Britain  
Shot put — John Godina, United States  
Discus — Lars Riedel, Germany

## HANDBALL

### World Championship

Men — France

### European Cup

Men — Elgorriaga Bidasoa (Spain)

Women — Hypo Niederösterreich (Austria)

## HORSE RACING

### U.S. Thoroughbred (flat)

Kentucky Derby — Thunder Gulch  
Preakness — Timber Country  
Belmont — Thunder Gulch  
Breeders Cup Juvenile — Unbridled's Song  
Breeders Cup juvenile filies — Desert Stormer  
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Hammer throw — Andrey Abduvaliyev, Tajikistan  
Javelin — Jan Zelezny, Czech Republic  
Decathlon — Dan O'Brien, United States

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Douglas Wakuburi, Kenya  
Anita Catana, Romania  
Carolina Maraton (U.S. women's championship) — Debbie Kilpatrick  
Boston — Cosmas Ndeti, Kenya  
New York — German Silva, Mexico  
Tegla Loroupe, Kenya

## ATHLETICS

### Professional

United States  
World Series — Atlanta Braves  
American League — Cleveland Indians  
National League — Atlanta Braves

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World Series — Atlanta Braves  
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## ATHLETICS

### Professional

# Knicks lose; Sonics hammer Celtics 124-85

LANDOVER (R) — The Washington Bullets broke a 15-game losing streak against the New York Knicks Friday, 127-120 in overtime, but had a bad scare when star forward Chris Webber reinjured his left shoulder.

New York, playing without centre Patrick Ewing, never led until overtime, but George Muresan's two free throws with 1:05 left in the extra session snapped a tie and Robert Pack hit 9-of-10 free throws in the final 40 seconds as the Bullets beat the Knicks for the first time since November 13, 1992.

It was just the second win in Washington's last 23 games against the Knicks.

Juwan Howard scored 27 points and pack added 25 points for Washington, which lost Webber to a strained left shoulder with 3:53 remaining in OT. Webber had 19 points and seven assists.

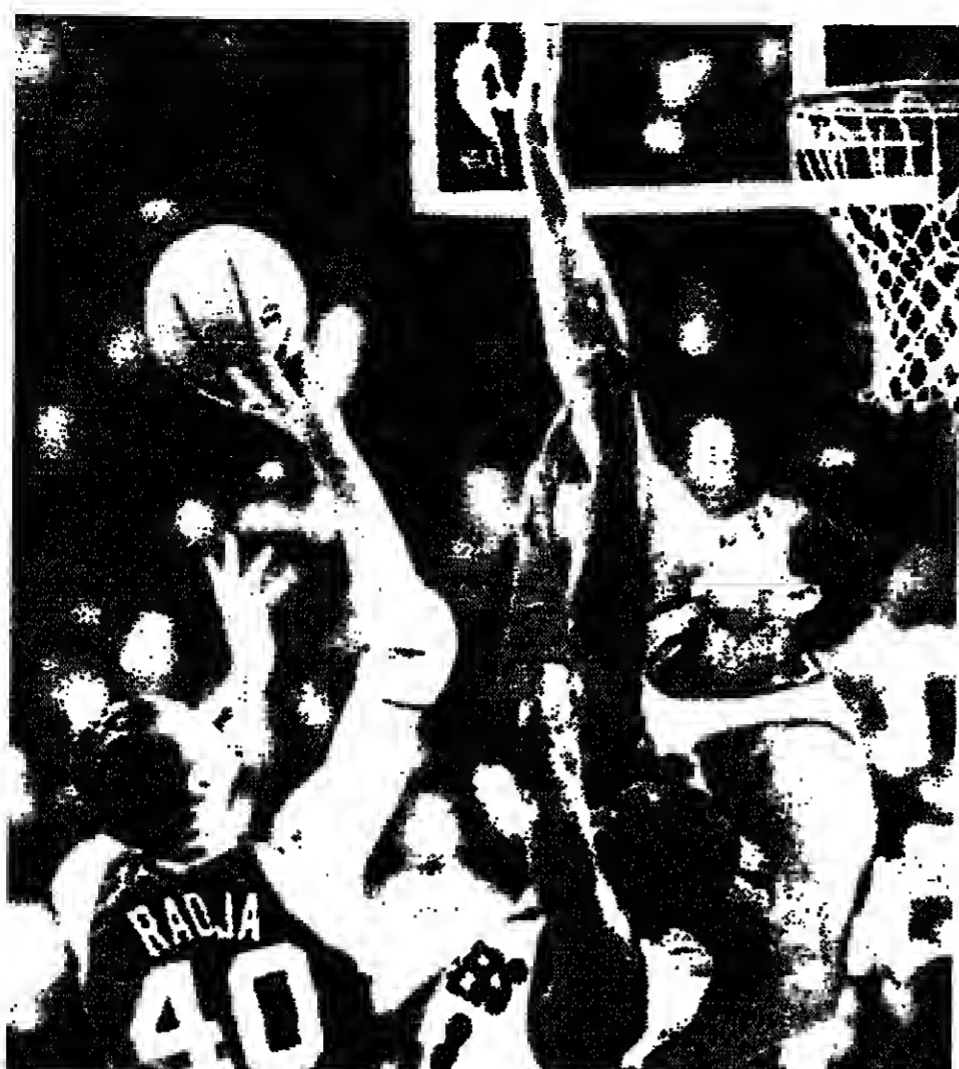
Webber drove the lane and lowered his shoulder into New York forward Charles Oakley who fell to the floor. Oakley swiped at the ball and Webber fell awkwardly, staying on the floor for four or five minutes as scary visions of season-ending surgery flashed through the Bullets' minds.

"It's not a dislocation," general manager John Nash said. "It's the same shoulder, but I repeat, it is not a dislocation. He aggravated it when he fell on it."

"The news is better than we first expected. The soreness will dictate what will happen, that is the key. The good news is that we get him back in the near future..." "It couldn't be a lot worse," Bullets coach Jim Lynum said. "They're saying it's a strain. It wasn't as serious as I first thought. When he didn't get up, I thought it was separated again."

Anthony Mason scored a season-high 30 points and Derek Harper added 21 for New York, which came back from a 16-point deficit in the final 11:27 of the fourth quarter.

Ewing sprained an ankle in the Knicks' loss to Cleveland



Dino Radja (40) of the Boston Celtics tries to shoot over the defense of Clifford Robinson (3) and Chris Dudley (right) of the Portland Trail Blazers during the first half of their NBA game earlier this week (Reuters photo)

Thursday, New York has dropped three of its last four games.

In Chicago, Michael Jordan scored 29 points and Scottie Pippen added 23 and eight assists as the Bulls avenged Tuesday's loss with a 120-93 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

Indiana snapped Chicago's 13-game winning streak Tuesday.

"We came out and defended our home court tonight," Jordan said. "I certainly had the idea tonight that I was going for the basket early. I wanted to set a good tone for the team. But ultimately it was our defence that won the game."

In Seattle Gary Payton scored 20 of his 26 points in the first half as the Super-sonics shelled the Boston Celtics 124-85, their worst loss in nearly 30 years.

Seattle has won four straight and 13 of its last 16. The Sonics have won eight straight at home, where they are 13-1.

The Celtics have lost five of their last six.

Shawn Kemp scored 24 points and Hersey Hawkins added 20 for Seattle. Rick Fox's 14 points led the Celtics, who shot 33 per cent (30-of-90) from the field.

In Charlotte, Kendall Gill had 16 points, 10 assists, nine

rebounds and blocked James Robinson's potential game-tying three-pointer at the buzzer as the Hornets handed the Portland Trail Blazers their sixth straight road loss, 102-99.

Scott Burrell scored 20 points and Glen Rice added 18 for the Hornets. Clifford Robinson had 26 points and Arvydas Sabonis 21 for Portland.

In Atlanta, Latrell Sprewell scored a season-high 32 points and rookie Joe Smith added 22 as the Golden State Warriors snapped a two-game losing streak with a 117-96 victory over the Hawks.

B.J. Armstrong scored 10 of his 21 points in the final period for the Warriors.

In Orlando, Shaquille O'Neal had 25 points and 10 rebounds as the Magic routed the Los Angeles Clippers 122-98 for their 23rd straight home victory.

Brian Shaw recorded his second career triple-double

with 11 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Magic, who have won all 16 home games this season.

In Phoenix, Wayman Tisdale came off the bench to score 16 of his 26 points in the second half as the Suns reached the .500 mark (13-13) for the first time in nearly a month, 103-92 over the Denver Nuggets.

Charles Barkley and rookie Michael Finley each scored 19 points for the Suns, who have won four of their last five.

The Nuggets have lost six straight on the road.

In Sacramento, Mitch Richmond scored 20 points and Walt Williams 18 as the Kings ripped the Philadelphia 76ers 117-97.

The Kings are 11-4 at home overall. Philadelphia, 1-11 on the road, has lost four straight.

Jerry Stackhouse scored 22 points and Clarence Weatherspoon 21 for Philadelphia.

NBA RESULTS			
Golden State	117	Atlanta	96
Charlotte	102	Portland	99
Orlando	122	LA Clippers	98
Washington	127	New York	120 (OT)
Chicago	120	Indiana	93
Phoenix	103	Denver	92
Seattle	124	Boston	85
Sacramento	117	Philadelphia	97

# Edwards and Rush honoured by Queen Elizabeth

LONDON (AP) — Europe's Ryder Cup captain Bernard Gallacher, triple jump world champion and record holder Jonathan Edwards and soccer striker Ian Rush are three leading British sports stars honoured Saturday by Queen Elizabeth II.

Gallacher, the non-playing captain whose European team won back the Ryder Cup from the United States at Oak Hill, Rochester, N.Y., in September, becomes an officer of the order of British Empire (OBE).

Edwards, who twice broke the triple jump world record with back-to-back jumps on the way to the world title in Göteborg, Sweden, in August, receives the less prestigious MBE (Member of the Order of British Empire).

Rush, who spent a season with Italy's Juventus in 1987-88 but scored 224 goals in 14 years with Liverpool, also receives the MBE.

Two leading rugby union players, Welshman Robert Jones and England's Dean Richards, are awarded the MBE while England's rugby league captain, Wigan's Shaun Edwards, gets the OBE.

Richards, the world's most capped back row forward, receives an award despite gaining a 14-day suspension earlier this season for stamping and punching during a game for Leicester.

# British soccer frozen out

LONDON (R) — The English and Scottish soccer programmes were decimated on Saturday by the arctic weather conditions.

Only 13 matches in England and three in Scotland had survived four hours before the kick off.

The English Premier League fared best with seven of the 10 matches still scheduled to go ahead.

Most Premier League clubs have underseal heating and with all-seater stadiums there is no problem of danger to spectators on frozen terraces.

One of the matches which looked certain to go ahead was at Old Trafford, where former French international defender William Prunier was set to line-up with compatriot Eric Cantona for Manchester United against Queen's Park Rangers.

Prunier, 28, completes a two-week loan from Bordeaux on Sunday, but the French football federation have given permission for him to play.

United can cut Newcastle's lead in the table to four points, as the leaders' match at West Ham was one of the three Premier League casualties. The other matches called off were Aston Villa vs. Sheffield Wednesday and Southampton vs. Manchester City.

Elsewhere just six league matches had survived in England and three in Scotland. The only Premier League match on in Scotland was between leaders Glasgow Rangers and Hibernian.

# Korean club crowned Asian soccer champions

RIYADH (AFP) — South Korea's Ilhwa Chunma needed sudden-death extra time to beat Saudi champions Al Nassr 1-0 and lift the 15th Asian Club Championship at the King Fahd International Stadium Friday.

The world's most capped player, Al Nassr captain Majed Abdullah, who has played more than 140 times for his country, was unable to stop his side slipping to defeat in a match that was decided for the first time by a dramatic sudden-death goal.

A clinical finish from substitute Lee Tae Hong just four minutes before the end of the extra period saw the Koreans emulate the 1985 feat of compatriots Daewoo Royals.

The defeat for Al Nassr will mark the retirement of Abdullah who will decide on his playing future in the next few days.

However, Al Nassr and Majed Abdullah did have their chances to win the game and the Saudi Arabian champions were denied only by the brilliance of Ilhwa defender Stepuhkin Gennadi.

The Russian, whose contract with the Korean club expires this weekend, controlled Ilhwa's defence as the Koreans stifled the

free-flowing football of Al Nassr. Abdul Aziz Al Jenobi and Muhaisen Aljamman tested Ilhwa Chunma goalkeeper Valeriy Sarychev in the first five minutes.

The Koreans rarely threatened the Al Nassr goal but they made no mistake four minutes before the penalty shoot-out was due.

Korea's 1994 player of the year Ko Jeong Woon controlled a cross-field ball inside the penalty area before cutting back to Lee who squeezed the ball past Mudhi Aldosari at his near post.

Iran's Saipa beat last year's champions Thai Farmers Bank 2-1 in the third place play-off. The Iranian champions as they hit the crossbar through Sabih Saran before Phanuwat's 42nd minute close-range header put the Thais ahead.

The Thais doubled their lead 16 minutes after half-time when Worrawoot's excellent first touch allowed him to lob Jalal Mohbobbi in the Saipa goal.

Saipa pulled a goal back within a minute when Mehdi Fomonzadegan curled a free-kick around the Farmers' wall from the edge of the penalty area.

# Favre edges Smith as top offensive player

NEW YORK (AP) — Brett Favre needed one of the greatest passing seasons in recent years to edge Emin Smith as the NFL offensive player of the year.

The Green Bay quarterback believes he's only getting started.

"It was just an awesome year offensively for the whole unit," said Favre, who won the award with 38 votes from a nationwide panel of 88 sports writers and broadcasters. Smith, the Dallas Cowboys' star running back, was second in balloting conducted by the Associated Press with 33 votes.

Favre had as many touchdowns as votes. His 38 touchdowns were the most

ever in the NFC, third only to Dan Marino's seasons of 48 and 44. He passed for 4,413 yards, hitting 359 of 570 (63 per cent).

And he did it without Sterling Sharpe, who was cut after requiring neck surgery that could end his career.

"Last year I thought was very productive, too, and going into the season, I didn't think we could be as productive as we were last year," said Favre, a five-year veteran.

"But we were 38 touchdown passes, almost 4,500 yards. You know, if I played the whole second half of the Minnesota game (which he missed with a sprained left ankle), I probably would have gotten 4,500

# Nigeria pull out of African finals

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria have withdrawn from next month's African Nations' Cup in South Africa.

"Despite our deep respect for the international sporting bodies, we have decided that Nigeria should withdraw from the tournament because there is no guarantee for the safety of the lives of our players in South Africa," Sports Minister Jim Nwobodo said on Saturday.

"We have been getting threats which bordered seriously on life and death. Until late last night, we tried to get assurance from South Africa on the safety of our delegation but this failed," Nwobodo added.

# Eder captures 3rd slalom

SEMMERING, Austria (R) — With several of the favourites skidding out, Austria's Elfi Eder stayed on her skis to collect her third World Cup Slalom victory of the season on Saturday.

Urged on by a large, partisan crowd, lined 10 deep at places along the icy, wind-swept Hirschenkogel Course, Eder finished with a two-run combined time of one minute 40.70 seconds, giving the Austrian women their seventh victory of the season.

Fourth after the first leg, Eder turned in the second fastest time of the second run, hitting down in 48.55 seconds. She then saw Sweden's Kristina Andersson and New Zealand's Claudia Riegler fail to better her time.

And the 25-year-old Austrian finally secured the vic-

tory when Urska Hrovat, the leader after the first leg, crashed out at the sixth gate.

The incident completed a frustrating weekend for the 22-year-old Slovenian, having also gone out in the first of back-to-back slaloms on Friday.

Marianne Kjoerstad of Norway had to settle for second in 1:40.98 while Andersson, who missed out on a place on the podium by 0.02 seconds, on Friday, took third with 1:41.02.

Switzerland's Mariies Oester had the fastest time of the second run of 48.19, vaulting her from 12th to fourth with a combined time of 1:41.18.

Sweden's Pernilla Wiberg, winner of the last two slaloms including one Friday on the same course, fell early in her first run and angrily pounded the snow as she skidded

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**TURINO**  
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## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& YANNAH HIRSCH  
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### BELIEVE, BELIEVE

East-West vulnerable. North  
deals.

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ Q5		♠ A10	
♥ K55		♥ J109832	
♦ K10742		♦ AJS	
♣ AKJ		♣ 74	

WEST	EAST	The bidding:	
♠ 76432	♠ AKJ98	NORTH	EAST
♥ 7	♥ AK4	1NT	Pass
♦ 8663	♦ Q	Pass	Pass
♣ 1092	♣ Q855	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Defenders who followcard at every opportunity will find partner more than declarer. The ideal time to paint a deceptive picture of your holding is when partner cannot be affected, as was the case in this deal. It cropped up during the Reisinger Team Championship, which is one of the few board-a-match championships in existence — scoring more than the opponents on any deal earns 1 point, 2/2 for a tie and zero for a loss.

North-South were not playing transfer bids, hence the direct route to four hearts in one room while North became declarer in the other. There, after the queen of diamonds lead, declarer won and successfully finessed for the queen of hearts first. Declarer still had to lose a trick to the ace of trumps, and emerged with an overtrick.

With South as declarer, this hand would have attracted no attention had West led a spade — the defenders would have been assured of three tricks. However, West chose to lead a club, thereby giving partner an opportunity to star.

Declarer won the opening lead in dummy and came to hand with the ace of diamonds, picking up East's

queen. The jack of hearts was now sure.

From East's point of view, the hand was an open book. Declarer was marked with the ace of spades for the jump to game, so West had nothing to contribute to the defense. The only hope was to confuse declarer about the distribution, so East won the trick with the ace and shifted to a spade.

Since ducking the spade might allow West to gain the lead and give partner a diamond ruff, declarer shot up with the ace and confidently led the ten of hearts and received a numbing shock — West discarded a spade. No matter how declarer proceeded, the defenders were assured of at least three tricks to win the board.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 634144 <b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Pierce Brosnan as James Bond 007 in <b>GOLDENEYE</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:05, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.	CINEMA TEL: 699238 <b>PLAZA</b> Dangerous Minds Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 * The Santa Clause Shows: 12:30, 5:00	CINEMA TEL: 677420 <b>CONCORD</b> CONCORD "1" Next Karate Kid Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" * Batman For ever Shows: 3:30, 8:30 * ASSASSINS Shows: 6, 11:30	AMMOUN THEATRE & CINEMA/TEL: 618274 - 618275 After the renovation ... Presents to its dear clients the strongest Arab & Foreign films as of 1 Jan. 96	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155 Shows begin on Dec. 19, 1995 and continue on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (three days a week) only. The programme continues until the start of the holy month of Ramadan. The Show is entitled: "Ahlan Tatbie" Welcome Normalisation For reservation call 625155
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# NATO rejects Serb demand to postpone Sarajevo unification

ZUPANJA, Croatia (AP) — NATO rejected rebel Serbs' demand to postpone the reunification of Sarajevo under the rule of their former enemies, while flooding forced the U.S. army to delay plans Saturday to move into Bosnia over a floating bridge.

U.S. forces also sustained their first casualty Saturday, a soldier who was wounded by a landmine in the northern Bosnian town of Bijela and rushed to the U.S. mobile military hospital at Zupanja.

Also Saturday, Brigadier General Ole Lysgaard Jorgensen of Denmark told reporters in Zagreb that hostile armies were withdrawing on all fronts, and pullbacks as specified by the peace treaty should be completed by Jan. 19.

The peace plan signed Dec. 14 in Paris calls for the Bosnian government to resume control of Serb-held areas of Sarajevo by March 19. However, Serbs, who have controlled some of those districts throughout the 3½-year war say they never will submit to rule by the Muslim-led government.

In seeking the delay, rebel Serb leaders said Sarajevo Serbs would flee if the transfer of power were not delayed. They warned that many, fearing reprisals from their old enemies and new rulers, would dig up bodies of their dead relatives to take with them.

Serbs suggested the fragile peace accord could be jeopardised without a delay. The Bosnian government has insisted that the transfer take place on time, and that Serbs with blood on their hands be brought to justice.

U.S. Admiral Leighton Smith, overall commander of the NATO force, had said earlier this week that he would consider shifting the deadline to delay the transfer of power. On Saturday, Capt. Mark Van Dyke read a statement from Adm. Smith saying the transfer of authority would begin Feb. 4, as indicated in the peace agree-

ment.

In his statement, Adm. Smith urged Bosnian Serbs in Sarajevo to stay put, saying the NATO force would provide for their security.

Meanwhile, U.S. army engineers gave up plans to move troops and armour into Bosnia on Saturday over flooding because flooding made it too risky.

"We'll do it tomorrow morning," said Brigadier General James O'Neal, announcing the one-day postponement.

Gen. O'Neal said icy water spilled over the banks of the Sava River, separating Croatia and Bosnia, making part of the Croatian side too unsteady to anchor the pontoon bridge. He said the land will be reinforced with gravel before the bridge is finished and the crossing attempted.

The flooding is the latest setback in the deployment of 20,000 American soldiers and their hundreds of tanks, trucks and other equipment. The operation already has been delayed by bureaucracy, snow and fog.

Maj. Gen. William Nash, who will command the American troops patrolling north-eastern Bosnia, said he still expects all of his troops to be in position in a month.

A column of M1-Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles was lined up on the Croatian side of the river near Orasje, a town 100 kilometres north of Sarajevo.

Croatia's Hina news agency quoted U.S. engineers in Zupanja — on the Bosnian side of the river — as saying that due to flooding, the bridge would be some 130 metres longer than previously planned — 460 metres in total. It will be four metres wide.

By early afternoon Saturday, a 230-metre stretch of bridge reaching across a flood plain created two days ago when the Sava overflowed its Croatian bank was completed, and the engineers were bridging the river itself. A light coating of snow

dusted the bridge sections, contrasting with the gray of the sky above and the icy water below.

With the Americans becoming a familiar sight on the banks of the Sava, only a few Bosnian government soldiers and about a dozen civilians were on hand to watch the swollen, sluggish river carrying slowly moving army barges and boats and the three Blackhawk Choppers circling above.

NATO's supreme commander praised their work.

"The troops are rising to the occasion," said U.S. Gen. George Joulwan, shortly after his helicopter landed on the Croatian side of the river. "It's come a long way," he said of the bridge-building operation.

Despite the Americans' bridge troubles, Gen. Jorgensen said 35,000 of the 60,000 NATO-led troops that will enforce peace in Bosnia had been deployed in Bosnia and the surrounding region by Saturday.

The American soldier injured Saturday by a landmine was not identified, but his condition was said to be stable. Maj. Simon Haselock, a spokesman for the peace mission, said the incident occurred near the Croatian border.

One soldier who would not give his name said the victim was injured in the leg.

In Washington, a senior White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the soldiers' vehicle, a Humvee jeep, was destroyed.

Though all warring factions are committed to removing mines or mapping their locations under terms of the Bosnian peace treaty, the process has just begun and tens of thousands of explosive devices lie uncharted.

The location of many never will be established because battlefields have shifted countless times during the nearly 4-year-old war.



KING GRADUATES MILITARY COURSES: His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday decorates Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Ali Ben Nayef with Al Hussein Golden Medal for Excellence awarded to her in view of high shooting skills. The awarding ceremony took place as the King, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, attended the graduation ceremony of several Royal Guards courses. King Hussein distributed awards to winners of various military activities. King Hussein and Queen Noor, who were received at the ceremony by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Kaabneh, attended various shows of military skills performed by the graduates. The ceremony was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Ali, Prince Hashem, Prince Hamzah, Princess Aisha and Princess Zein. In addition, it was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's private advisor Prince Ali Ben Nayef, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and other senior officials (Petra photo)

## Prince Hassan calls for expanding inter-faith dialogue to counter extremism

Lola Keilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday called for expanding inter-faith dialogue in the world in order to reach a universal understanding on ways to combat religious extremism.

Speaking at the Royal Court during a meeting with the Inter-Parliamentary Council Against Anti-Semitism, which has a 12,000 members in 86 parliaments all over the world, the Crown Prince said that the Islamic world is deeply concerned with the spread of fear of Islam, or what has become to be known as "Islamophobia."

The delegation's visit to the Kingdom came at an invitation by Prince Hassan to exchange views with Jordanian parliamentarians and

lend a helping hand to an initiative launched by the Crown Prince on means to establish a body to counter discrimination, attacks and harassment against Muslims all over the world, especially in Europe, which has a sizeable Muslim community.

The Crown Prince, an associated member of the council, said that the unjustified discrimination against Islam in Western countries as mainly represented in attributing acts of terrorism and extremism to Muslims, requires from the Western media and scholars to be objective in dealing with Islam.

A study carried out in Britain said that 70,000 cases of racial and ethnic attacks take place annually, with the majority of the vic-

tims being Muslims.

The five-member representatives of the Council who met briefly with speakers of both the upper and lower houses of Parliament, as well as a group of parliamentarians, outlined the duties of their council. They also briefed the parliamentarians on the structure of their organisation, whose membership is mostly non-Jewish and is restricted to parliament members. Associated membership in the council includes both ex-members of parliament and distinguished individuals involved in parliamentary and government institutions.

Greville Janner, the chairman of the council and Labour member of the British Parliament told Jordanian parliamentarians that sponsorship of any estab-

lishment to counter discrimination against Muslims should not come from Arab or Muslim countries but rather from individuals. He stressed that such a proposed body should be operating from a non-Arab and non-Islamic country, saying this would be the source of the body's strength.

Except for the "miscommunication" which took place Thursday at the premises of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) between the delegation and some Jordanian parliamentarians and scholars, "all other meetings went well," an informed source who asked not to be identified told the Jordan Times.

The "miscommunication" developed because the Jordanian side was not informed before hand about the purpose of the meeting.

## U.S. state bans media from interviewing prisoners

SACRAMENTO (R) — California authorities, in a bid to keep prisoners from becoming media celebrities, said that news organisations have been temporarily barred from interviewing state inmates. The ban, which applies to all 135,000 prisoners in the state's 31 prisons, was put into effect while the state youth and adult correctional agency reviews its interview policies, said J.P. Tremblay, assistant secretary of the agency. "They're sent to prison to do time, not to be on prime time," Tremblay said. Tremblay cited television appearances by criminals peddling their memoirs and other products, such as convicted mass murderer Charles Manson, who sells songs and T-shirts.

## Wife recants sex slave story

MIAMI (R) — A young wife who claimed two years ago that her husband turned her into a sex slave has recanted, saying she made up the story because she feared losing her two children in a custody fight. Miami prosecutors Thursday were trying to determine whether to file perjury charges against Mabel Jentsch, 23. She told police two years ago that her husband aimed a loaded shotgun at her head, turned on the family's video camera and forced her to perform sex acts in the couple's bedroom, nicknamed "the dungeon." The lurid allegations surfaced during a 1993 divorce proceeding between Jentsch and Steven Jentsch, 32. When her husband allegedly threatened to use the sexually explicit video tapes against her to win custody of the couple's two children, Jentsch responded by complaining to police that her husband abused her.

## U.S. executive pleads guilty to drowning wife to avoid trial

ST. LOUIS (R) — A wealthy New Orleans real estate executive has pleaded guilty; in the 1986 drowning death of his wife and began serving the balance of a 30-year prison sentence to avoid a third trial. Edward Post, who pleaded guilty this week to second degree murder, was convicted in two earlier jury trials for the murder of his wife, Julie. But both verdicts were overturned, the first because a court deputy allegedly had sex with a juror and the second because hearsay evidence was introduced.

## Diana must have 'dignified, worthwhile' role — Major

LONDON (AFP) — Princess Diana should play a role in public life even if she divorces her husband Prince Charles, Prime Minister John Major has said in a BBC interview. Amid feverish speculation in Britain over a divorce, his comments indicated strong support for Princess Diana's stated desire to have an "ambassadorial" role regardless of the state of her marriage. "Whatever may happen in future between the Prince of Wales and the Princess of Wales, she is the mother of a future king, so the Princess of Wales must have a role in public life, and as I see it always will have a role," Mr. Major said. "It needs to be a dignified role and it needs to be a worthwhile role," he added.

## Iranian vice-president Habibi cancels Damascus visit

TEHRAN (AFP) — Vice-President Hassan Habibi Saturday called off a visit to Syria planned for next week, as Iranian newspapers launched an unprecedented attack on Damascus.

The president's office said the visit was postponed indefinitely, without giving a reason.

Iranian diplomats in Damascus said Thursday that Mr. Habibi would travel to Syria for a meeting of the two countries' joint commission. The visit was not officially announced in Tehran.

The postponement came amid furor in Iranian news-

papers over Syria's resumption of peace talks with Israel and its support for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in a territorial dispute with Iran.

A pro-government newspaper said Saturday that Syria, Iran's main ally in the Middle East, was shifting its stance away from Tehran in favour of pro-Western countries in the region.

Syria is "seeking to change its regional diplomacy" at the cost of "forgetting old friends who helped it during its isolation in the Middle East in the 1980s and supplied it with oil," Abrar daily charged. It complained of Syrian

"ingratitude." "Syria is now humiliating itself in search of peace with Israel and has its representatives sit at the same table with the Zionists for dinner," the newspaper said.

It was the first such attack by an Iranian newspaper on Damascus.

The Islamic Republic of Iran rejects peace with its arch-enemy Israel and has urged Arab countries to quit the Middle East peace process.

On Friday, the foreign ministry criticised the Damascus Declaration — a pact signed by Egypt, Syria and the six Gulf Arab states

in 1991 — for backing the UAE in its territorial dispute with Iran.

"These countries had better direct their attention at the Zionist regime rather than issue such statements which can only lead to division and misunderstanding" among Muslim states in the region, it said.

At the end of a meeting in Damascus on Thursday, the eight Arab foreign ministers voiced support for the UAE in its conflict with Iran over Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb islands, which are currently in Iranian hands.

## Somali clan fighting claims nine lives

MOGADISHU (AFP) — At least nine people died and seven others were wounded when fighting erupted between supporters of Somali warlords General Mohammed Farah Aided and Ali Mahdi Mohammed at Donka village west of Mogadishu, the Somali press reported Saturday.

The newspapers said fighting flared following sporadic shooting between Murusade clan militiamen who support the self-styled Somali interim President Ali Mahdi and those of the Abgal clan, which support General Aided.

Ali Mahdi's spokesman, Abdulkadir Mohammad Abubul, later claimed his side's militiamen had defeated those of Gen. Aided and had captured two heavy machineguns and weaponry from Gen. Aided's supporters, but this could not be independently confirmed.

But Gen. Aided's top militia commanders declined to comment on the fighting. The renewed fighting temporarily blocked the Mogadishu-Baidoa road,

leaving only lorries considered to be junk or lorries collecting refuse to operate on the road.

The papers did not say when the fighting took place, nor the reasons for it, although sources attributed it to political misunderstanding between Gen. Aided and Ali Mahdi, who have been battling for control of the Somali capital since the overthrow of dictator Mohammed Farah Aided.

Meanwhile an Islamic Sharia court chopped off the right hands and left legs of four young men convicted of robbery in central Somalia, sources here said on Saturday.

The amputations were carried out in public at the central Somali town of Beletweyn.

Ahmad Haji Saad, a spokesman of the United Somali Congress/Somali Patriotic Movement (USC/SPM) faction, allied to Ali Mahdi's Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA), confirmed the court's decision and said it was done according to Sharia law.

## Egyptian editor convicted for anti-Islamist article

CAIRO (R) — A Cairo court has sentenced a magazine editor to two years' hard labour for an article that criticised Muslim fundamentalists for raising cases against artists and intellectuals, court sources said on Saturday.

The sentence, passed on Thursday, is the latest victory for the plaintiff Sheikh Youssef Al Badri, a former member of parliament turned fundamentalist preacher, in his war against anti-Islamist intellectuals.

Mahmoud Tohami, editor of the weekly Rose Al Youssef Magazine, was also ordered to pay 500 pounds (\$147) compensation to the plaintiff.

Mr. Badri and 25 Islamist lawyers raised the case against Mr. Tohami last year after he ran an unsigned opinion piece that claimed the cleric and others like him were using courtrooms to turn Egypt into their vision of an Islamic state.

Mr. Tohami pleaded not guilty and said the article did not libel or insult anyone. It was a warning to Egyptian society that the battle between fundamentalists and

society generally had entered the legal arena. Mr. Tohami said he would appeal.

The sources said the presiding judge, Hassan Al Tohami — no relation of the defendant — was the same judge who earlier this year ruled in favour of a court case to ban a film by director Youssef Chahine.

The film, called "L'Emigre", was judged to have violated Islamic teaching by depicting the life of Joseph, whom Muslims consider a prophet.

The ban of the film was lifted after Mr. Chahine successfully appealed. Mr. Badri has been the instigator or co-plaintiff in several recent court cases which intellectuals and artists in Egypt consider to be symptoms of increasing conservatism.

He joined a suit brought by Islamist lawyers that ended with the court-ordered annulment earlier this year of a marriage between a happy couple on the grounds that the writings of the husband, a university professor, made him an apostate.

## UAE to curb pollution caused by oil tankers

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has decided to take action against oil tankers and other vessels polluting its water with sludge and industrial waste following a surge in such incidents.

The Federal Environment Committee, created last year to act as an environment ministry, has almost completed a draft law on the protection of the Gulf country's environment in sea, land and air.

The law, published in Al Khaleej newspaper on Saturday, is to be ratified by President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, officials said.

It introduced a fine of up to 500,000 dirhams (\$136,240) against ships dumping oil sludge, industrial waste, polluted water and other harmful materials into the UAE's territorial waters and beaches.

The law followed a surge in waste-dumping incidents and calls by local fishermen for action against those vessels on the grounds and polluting their sandy beaches.

Most of the pollution incidents were reported off the

ports of Fujairah and Khor-fakkan in the Gulf of Oman, one of the busiest seas in the world.

More than 30,000 oil tankers and merchant ships pass through the Gulf of Oman towards the strategic Straits of Hormuz every year to transport crude and other commodities to and from regional states, which supply nearly a quarter of the world's total oil exports.

Gulf officials have singled out oil tankers, accusing them of dumping sludge and other waste when they clean their tanks before heading for Gulf terminals to lift other crude shipments.

Regional countries have failed to stop such acts given their small naval capabilities and lack of cooperation. Experts have warned against a surge in marine pollution in the Gulf due to waste-dumping, leaks from oil terminals and pipelines and ship accidents. They estimate more than one million barrels of crude find their way into the shallow Gulf waters every year, making the region the most polluted sea.

The Gulf has already been hit by major pollution accidents, including the alleged dumping of nearly six million barrels of crude by Iraq during the Gulf war. Another slick of two million barrels was caused when Iraqi jets raided Iran's giant oilfield of Noruz at the start of their 1980-1988 conflict.

The conflict later spilled into the so-called tanker war, in which more than 500 oil tankers, many of which were loaded, were attacked.

Oman was the first Gulf Arab state to take action against waste-dumping vessels, when it decided last year to step up sea and air patrols and impose fines of up to one million riyals (\$2.6 million) against violators.

The new UAE law empowered local authorities to board any national or foreign vessel to check its compliance with environment rules, which also stipulated they must carry anti-pollution equipment.

"Ships of all nationalities are harmed from dumping oil and sludge into the UAE water. In case of an accident, the ship owner should be responsible for operations to stop the leakage and fight pollution," the law said.

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Gen. Yariv said in the interview that Ms. Meir ordered the killing of all Palestinian guerrillas involved in the Munich massacre. Israeli agents killed more than 10 guerrillas before killing Mr. Bonchiki by mistake, Gen. Yariv said.

Israel's Maariv newspaper said this week Israel's ambassador to Norway sent a letter to Foreign Minister Ehud Barak recommending the Jewish state compensate Mr. Bonchiki's widow.

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At the time Gen. Yariv served as Prime Minister Golda Meir's adviser against terrorism. Israel has never formally taken responsibility for the killing.

"Israel decided to do battle with terrorists, not with innocent people. And since Aharon Yariv admitted that we killed an innocent man, the man's family in my opinion

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## 'Widow of man slain by Israeli agents should be compensated'

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli minister said Saturday Israel should compensate the widow of a man thought to have been killed by Israeli agents who mistook him for a Palestinian guerrilla in Norway 22 years ago.

Science and Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni said if Norway asked Israel to compensate the widow of slain Moroccan waiter Ahmad Bonchiki, she would support the request.

The late Israeli General Aharon Yariv confirmed in a 1993 interview that an Israeli

hit squad sent to the Norwegian town of Lillehammer to kill the Palestinian who masterminded the murder of 11 Israeli athletes in Munich, killed Mr. Bonchiki instead.

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